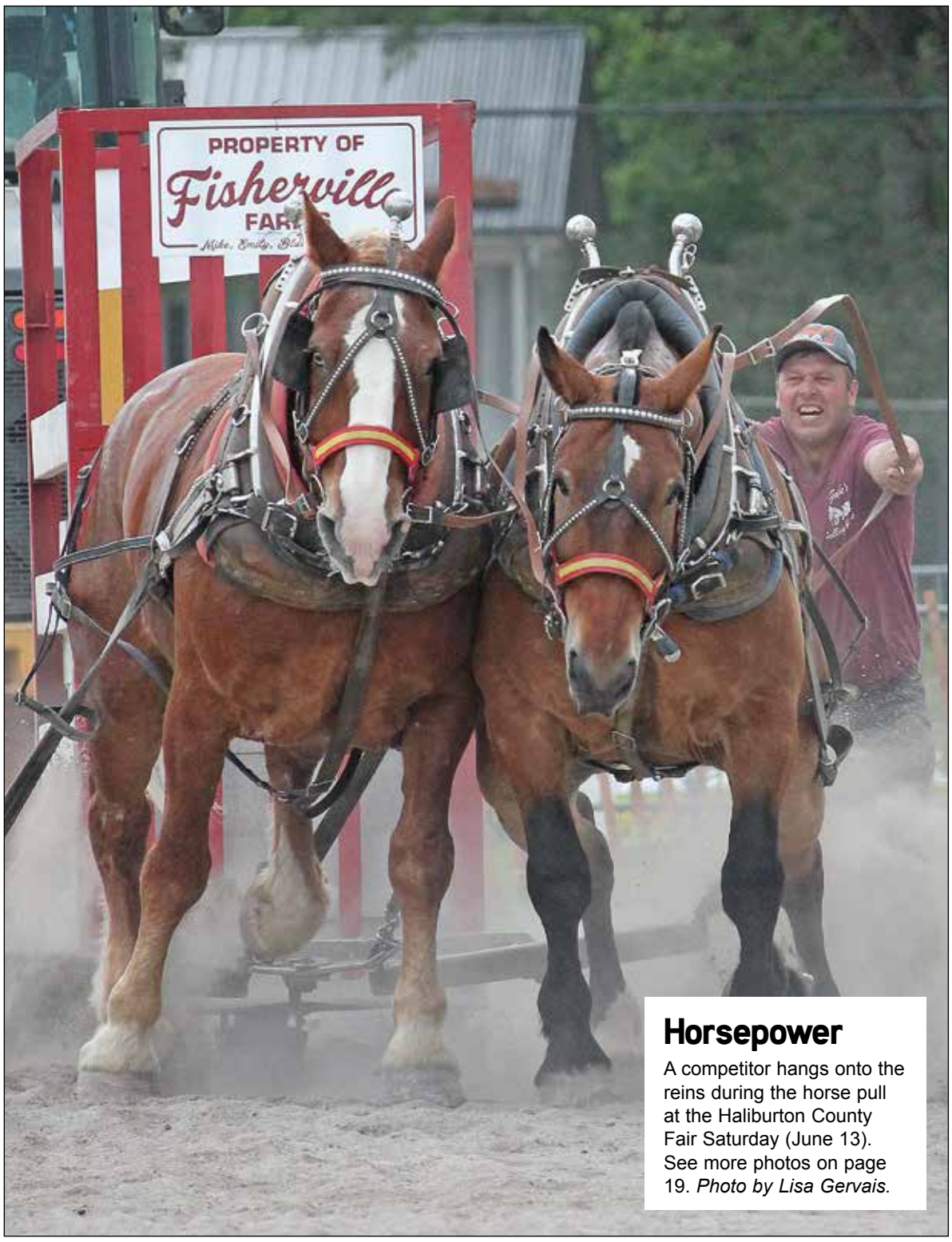
The Highlander

Thursday **June 18 2026** | Issue 744

INSIDE: DOLLO'S CELEBRATES 70 YEARS PAGES 14-15 **FREE**



Horsepower

A competitor hangs onto the reins during the horse pull at the Haliburton County Fair Saturday (June 13). See more photos on page 19. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Tourism set to take off in summertime

By Lisa Gervais

The Haliburton Highlands is expected to have a strong summer tourism season, according to County of Haliburton tourism manager, Angelica Ingram.

Speaking during a June 10 council meeting, she said recent data and industry outlooks are pointing toward another strong summer for Canadian tourism, with growing demand for domestic travel expected to benefit rural and nature-based destinations across the country, including the Haliburton Highlands.

Ingram said Destination Canada's latest outlook projects continued growth in tourism spending and visitation, driven in large part by Canadians choosing to travel within Canada and exploring destinations closer to home. Tourism spending nationally is forecast to grow by six per cent in 2026, building on a record-breaking 2025 summer season.

Ingram added the outlook is particularly positive for regions such as the Highlands, that offer outdoor recreation, lakes, trails, authentic small-town experiences, and year-round tourism opportunities.

"Industry reports indicate that Canadians are increasingly prioritizing road trips, nature-based travel, and shorter domestic getaways focused on relaxation and reconnecting with family and friends. This trend aligns closely with the tourism experiences available throughout Haliburton County and positions the region well to benefit from increased domestic visitation this summer."

Ingram told councillors additional data also suggests more people are choosing Canadian destinations over trips to the U.S. "This shift is creating stronger demand for Ontario tourism destinations and helping support local businesses, accommodations, restaurants, attractions, and tourism operators.

"Rural and leisure-focused destinations across Canada have seen some of the strongest tourism gains over the past year, with many regions reporting increased occupancy levels and visitor spending."

Ingram said for the Haliburton Highlands, the national tourism trends present an important opportunity to continue building momentum for the local visitor economy.

Continued **'International'** on page 2

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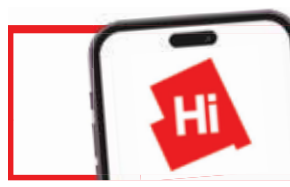

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The canopy tour at Haliburton Forest. *File.*

International travellers triple

Continued from page 1

"Increased domestic travel demand is expected to support local tourism operators, generate economic activity across communities, and strengthen shoulder season and summer visitation. The County's continued investment in tourism marketing, destination development, and stakeholder collaboration positions the Haliburton Highlands to capitalize on these positive national trends and further reinforce the region as a premier Ontario getaway destination."

Taking advantage of World Cup

Ingram added one example of how the Haliburton Highlands is aiming to cash in on a strong summer for Canadian tourism is by capitalizing on events such as the FIFA World Cup, in Toronto this June and July. Early data from Destination Ontario points to nine of 10 visitors indicating they plan to explore destinations throughout Ontario, particularly those within a three-hour radius of the city.

"Haliburton County has the advantage of offering the quintessential cottage country experience, which is appealing to travellers coming from international destinations. The tourism team is taking advantage of these opportunities by positioning the Haliburton Highlands as a great destination for a day trip or a multi-day adventure and has begun marketing initiatives to reflect this." She said one example can be found on their website, where a new 'day trips' page has been added.

General manager of Haliburton Forest, Tegan Legge, said it was still a bit early to tell with things such as the canopy tour, and wolf centre as school is not yet out.

"But we are shaping up so far for a very busy summer of people camping (mainly domestic markets) and in our accommodations.

"Our international bookings have tripled over last year's revenue with guests coming primarily from Germany, The Netherlands, UK, Switzerland, and Belgium. They are typically booking accommodations, canopy tours and wolf centre visits."

She added that this spring, they did a full refresh of the wolf centre with new carpet, added an accessible, gender-neutral washroom, and re-organized and revitalized displays in time for summer.

"We anticipate another great summer."

Heritage passport

Ingram also talked up a new Haliburton Highlands heritage passport, which should be available at all local museums by the end of this week. She said it was a spinoff from a project they did with the Minden Hills Cultural Centre last year. This year's is for all six museums in the County.

She said people collect stamps when they visit, and if they collect six, can get a free Kawartha Dairy ice cream. If they gather eight, they are eligible to win a prize.

"This is just to promote the heritage in our area; to promote visitation; we believe there will be some economic spinoffs; it's free, there's no cost for families to participate, and, if successful, we would like to continue this project moving forward."

What the HALIBURTON PODCAST

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Why Did the Turtle Cross the Road?

No AI slop

Highlander news

McKechnie to step in as interim mayor

By Mike Baker

Dysart et al has mapped out the process to make council whole again following the death of mayor Murray Fearrey.

Elected officials will gather for a special meeting July 7, where a new head of council will be appointed. Deputy mayor Walt McKechnie has thrown his hat into the ring, though Ward 1 coun. Pat Casey, who had declared for the role earlier this month, has changed his tune, instead vying to replace McKechnie as Dysart's number two.

On July 28, council will choose between Casey, Ward 2 coun. Nancy Wood-Roberts and Ward 4 coun. Carm Sawyer to serve as deputy mayor until October, when this current term ends.

CAO Tamara Wilbee said any current council member who wishes to be nominated to fill the mayor's seat is required to notify the clerk in writing by noon June 30. Council opted against opening nominations to the general public.

"On July 7, council will review any submitted correspondence regarding candidates and candidates will then be given five minutes to address council," Wilbee said. "Council members may ask candidates one question, but candidates will not be permitted to ask each other questions. Votes are taken in public with a show of hands, in accordance with the Municipal Act."

If nobody opposes McKechnie, he will be acclaimed to the position.

At Tuesday's (June 16) meeting, council officially declared Fearrey's old seat vacant,

Deputy mayor Walt McKechnie wants to finish the term as interim mayor. *File.*

the first key step in finding a replacement. With County council meeting June 17, council voted among themselves to designate Casey as Dysart's alternate at the upper tier, granting him voting powers.

Speaking to *The Highlander*, McKechnie said it would be an honour to follow in the footsteps of his friend, Fearrey.

"If that's what council wants me to do, I'll do it. I'm pretty sure my heart is there, in the right place. I'd have awful big shoes to fill," said McKechnie, who chaired this week's meeting.

It's looking like being a three-way race to replace McKechnie as deputy mayor. Casey, coming to the end of his first term on council, has already declared for mayor in October's election, and said he wanted to step up over the next few months. "Everyone knows the passion I have for the township and the County," Casey said.

Wood-Roberts has spent 13 years on municipal council and said she'd be "more than willing and honoured" to serve as deputy for the final few months of the term. She confirmed on Tuesday she won't be seeking re-election.

"It's the end of my municipal career. I don't think I have any sort of conflict." she said.

Coun. Carm Sawyer said he thinks Casey or Wood-Roberts would be great fits but declared he's seeking the role too. "I have no problem stepping up and doing it."

Because of strict processes outlined in the Municipal Act, council cannot fill both the mayor and deputy positions at the same meeting. Once the mayor has been appointed, the seat of the councillor filling the role has to be declared vacant before it can be filled. It also has to be advertised to the public.

Because the deputy mayor position will be filled July 28 - 90 days from October's election - council will not need to appoint a seventh member.

McKechnie will chair Dysart's next regular meeting June 23, though will not be permitted to chair the July 7 meeting, per rules outlined in the Municipal Act. If appointed, McKechnie will run council meetings scheduled for July 28, Aug. 25, Sept. 22 and Oct. 13.

AROUND THE COUNTY NEWS

New garbage bag limits in Minden

Minden Hills landfill users will see the number of garbage bags they can bring to the dump for free reduced as of July 1.

Manager of waste facilities, Chelsea Cosh, said the allotment will go to 104 bags per year, down from 156.

She noted council approved the move at its Feb. 12 meeting. The new waste disposal cards will be effective as of July 1. Cosh added the move is in part to extend the life of the landfills.

Fines for landfill infractions have also been increased.

Coun. Ivan Ingram asked if they had ever considered tappable plastic cards with household information, versus the paper ones. Residents have their paper cards checked by landfill staff upon entering. She said all four townships have looked into it but the cost so far is prohibitive. She said they continue to look for more affordable options.

County pavement markings

Council approved the tender for its pavement marking project at its June 10 meeting.

Apex Pavement Markings Inc. is getting the job for 2026.

Sylvin Cloutier, director of public works, said they had six bidders – with the lowest, Apex, charging $206,923.65, including nonrecoverable tax. They had budgeted $195,000. Cloutier recommended they take money from the hot mix tender savings.

Cloutier said, the County's pavement markings generally include the longitudinal yellow and white lines, arrows, stop blocks, crosswalks, hatching and parking stalls at the County office.

"Pavement markings on County roads offer numerous benefits that significantly enhance road safety and efficiency," the director added.

(Around the County news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

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Highlander news

No trolls

New mental health space at hospital

By Lisa Gervais

There is a new mental health and patient care space at Haliburton hospital. *File.*

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) has announced the opening of a newly-enhanced space in its emergency department designed to better support patients experiencing mental health crises while improving privacy, safety, and care delivery for all patients.

HHHS said the new mental health space provides patients in crisis with a safer, more private, and less stimulating environment.

Previously, patients requiring mental health support were often cared for in a standard examination room that lacked both privacy and an environment optimized for those experiencing crisis.

"This new space reflects our commitment to delivering compassionate, patient-centred care while ensuring every individual receives support in an environment designed to meet their needs," said chief nursing executive, Victoria Miscio.

"These enhancements improve not only the patient experience, but also how our teams work together to provide safe, high-quality care."

The project also introduces dedicated workspace for police partners, supporting stronger collaboration and providing improved visibility and documentation space when caring for patients requiring additional support.

Further improvements include relocating patient chairs from hallway spaces into a repurposed area, creating increased privacy and confidentiality during physician assessments and patient interactions.

HHHS said the project also expands stretcher capacity and standardizes patient care spaces, ensuring all stretcher areas now have consistent access to essential equipment including monitoring capabilities, suction, and oxygen.

Previously, care teams were required to match patients to specific spaces based on equipment availability.

The improvements were made possible entirely through donor support.

"We are deeply grateful to our donors whose generosity continues to transform health-care close to home," said president and CAO Jack Hutchison.

Miscio was only recently appointed as the permanent vice president of patient care services and chief nursing executive.

Meanwhile, Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation has announced that Kathryn Quick has been appointed interim executive director of the foundation as of June 8. She was donor relations manager from 2023-25. A search for the next permanent executive director is underway.

No tech bros

The Haliburton County Huskies are moving to Cobourg for the 2026-27 season. *Photo courtesy of Tim Bates /OJHL Images.*

Businesses grateful for Huskies

By Mike Baker

While Dominion Hotel owner Shawn Chamberlin expects his front-of-house to be a little quieter on Saturday afternoons this winter, he's grateful for what the Haliburton County Huskies did for businesses in Minden these past five years.

Franchise owners Paul Wilson and Ryan Ramsay announced in May that the team would be relocating to Cobourg ahead of the 2026-27 season, calling time on Jr. A hockey in the Highlands.

The team played five seasons out of S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. Four-o-clock on a Saturday afternoon was hour of the Husky, with hundreds attending the almost-weekly home games. Since September 2021, the Huskies brought more than 150 Jr. A games to Haliburton County.

"Paul and Ryan did their best and worked hard – they put quite the show together for us these past five years. We've got to be grateful for that," Chamberlin said. "I was very disappointed, but by the same token, it was a bit of a reality check for the whole thing. If it's not working financially, then it's not going to last."

Wilson cut a cheque for $30,000-50,000 each season to balance the books, with Ramsay saying the organization faced a much-larger deficit this season had they remained in the County. He cited increased league fees and transportation costs, with the latter taking a big chunk of the team's $500,000 budget in 2025-26.

Chamberlin said his restaurant enjoyed good crowds before and after games, so there will be a hit to business. He doesn't anticipate making any changes, though.

"There's lots of other stuff going on in the County. There are still different programs and events, live entertainment, bringing people into the downtown during winter. We have the snowmobilers who bring a lot of business," Chamberlin said.

For Michael Wright and Paula Sylvester, owners of Mulligan's Pub and Patio that ran the concessions stand at the arena on gamedays, they said they'll miss the people more than the money.

They were involved with the team since its inaugural season, after Wilson and Ramsay tried one of Wright's burgers in the summer of 2021. That first year, Mulligan's supplied the food for the snack bar, but every year since, Wright and Sylvester manned it. Beyond that, they hosted monthly team dinners, annual Christmas parties and end-of-season celebrations.

"It was like a gut punch, for sure. Huskies hockey was a big thing for everybody here during the winter. For us, it was something really cool to do. It was so nice being out in the community, connecting with people," Wright said. "The Huskies became an institution in Haliburton County. We're going to miss it this season but really hope it can return in future."

Hope for the future

Ramsay confirmed he is working with two people with ties to the Huskies operation to bring a Jr. C franchise to the County for the 2027-28 season. Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter said he would be in favour of that.

The township had a contract with the Huskies for ice time until Spring 2028. Carter acknowledged the team's pending departure is disappointing, but he respects it "as a business decision."

The mayor noted the township would look to plug the gap left behind by the Huskies with other programming for the community, with rentals for other hockey leagues, pick-up games, public skating and figure skating all mentioned. The mayor said the arena was built with public programming in mind and not to house a junior hockey franchise.

"The Huskies weren't even on the horizon when the decision was made to build a new arena. We have this space now that is available to the public and we'll market the ice hours the Huskies had booked elsewhere," Carter said, when asked about any anticipated financial shortfall.

Asked if he felt the township could have provided funding to the Huskies, whether by grant or sponsorship, to try to keep the team here, Carter felt that would have been inappropriate.

"They're just like any other business in the area. We don't provide them with assistance… I wouldn't see it as the role of the township to be providing public funding to the team," Carter said.

Coun. Tammy McKelvey has been a season ticket holder for the past three seasons and said she'll miss her weekend ritual of heading to the rink. She believes swapping a Jr. A franchise for one in Jr. C could be a blessing in disguise for local hockey fans.

"There are a lot of local players right now travelling out of town to play Jr. C hockey. If we can bring them back home to play, keep their families here to watch, that would be a pretty good foundation for a new program," she said.

One big complaint from Huskies fans in recent years has been the temperature inside the rink, especially last season during the Arctic blasts. The township didn't pay to install heaters when the arena was built in 2020, but McKelvey said it is on council's radar.

"There should be some money left over from when we debentured the arena costs. There is a long list of items the money could be used for, but we really haven't had that brought to council yet," McKelvey said.

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No misinformation

Minden Hills continues to talk crosswalk

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills council, last Thursday (June 11), sent staff and their consultant engineer back to the drawing board over a proposed crosswalk on Bobcaygeon Road in the downtown.

Director of public works, Mike Timmins, updated council on the project design and public feedback. He noted council approved the project in its 2026 budget; and discussed it at a March 26 meeting. Some councillors were worried about the loss of parking, and wanted to hear from businesses and residents.

The proposed location is halfway between Water Street and Newcastle Street, which Timmins said, "represents a more favourable location with better sight lines in either direction." He said it would be combined with flashing beacons using push button indicators.

Timmins said the existing courtesy crossings, between UpRiver and CIBC, and where Water Street meets Bobcaygeon Road, have raised pedestrian safety concerns during this term of council.

Timmins said a revised design for the pedestrian crossing reduces the number of lost parking spaces to four. Accessible parking spaces have also been reduced.

As for public feedback, Timmins said "the majority of the negative comments were from residents who did not feel that the pedestrian crossover is warranted, or questioned the timing of the project. Many positive comments were received from residents who welcome additional traffic control safety features in Minden village."

He said there was misinformation on social media: that this is an overpass with stairs. It is not. Timmins added some residents believed the project has an estimated cost of $500,000. The crosswalk is estimated at $130,000.

One of the existing courtesy crosswalks across Bobcaygeon Road. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Council weighs in

Coun. Ivan Ingram said he doesn't see the need for the new crosswalk. "If it isn't broke, don't fix it. There's nothing wrong with the ones we've had. Nobody's got hit by a car that I know of. It doesn't make sense. Why don't we improve what we have?"

CAO Cynthia Fletcher noted council had already approved the project, and staff and the consultant engineer had done a lot of work. However, Coun. Tammy McKelvey said she did not remember a lot of discussion about the $130,000 spend.

McKelvey said she remained concerned about losing parking in the downtown, and it appeared that to reduce the impact, some parking stalls are shorter. She is also worried about traffic backing up if they have crossing lights. She wondered if it would be better to make it a courtesy crossing.

Timmins said they could formalize additional parking on Water Street since people are already parking there.

Deputy mayor Lisa Schell said the loss of four parking spaces will impact businesses. She added she does not think the crosswalk will be used in the way it is intended.

Coun. Bob Sisson thought they could use existing crosswalks to accommodate the legion's request for a commemorative crosswalk.

Mayor Bob Carter said they may not have had pedestrian deaths, but the existing crosswalks are unsafe. He likes the centre street crosswalk idea and thought it would be good for downtown businesses.

Coun. Shirley Johannessen expressed disappointment with how some councillors appeared to be walking the project back. "I'm in town almost on a daily basis and there have been very close calls. You hear the honking. You hear the swearing…I'm asking for better safety."

Timmins said he would need to get clarification on the legality and implications of a new courtesy crosswalk; since there is no obligation to stop and it could cause confusion. He thought they would still lose four parking spots. Council also split the sidewalk tender from the crosswalk tender.

Staff will come back with more information at an as-yet unknown time.

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Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

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To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

OUR STAFF

PUBLISHER
Laurie Johnson
laurie@thehighlander.ca

EDITORIAL
Lisa Gervais, Editor
editor@thehighlander.ca

Mike Baker, Asst. Editor
mike@thehighlander.ca

Adam Frisk, LJI Reporter
adam@thehighlander.ca

SALES
Aidan McKnight
aidan@thehighlander.ca

BUSINESS MANAGER
Glenda Mumford
admin@thehighlander.ca

AD DESIGN | LAYOUT
David Partridge, Designer
production@thehighlander.ca

DISTRIBUTION
Walt Griffin

TEAM COORDINATOR
Rufus

CONTACT

705-457-2900
123 Maple Avenue, Box 1024
Haliburton, Ontario, K0M 1S0

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Looking good, Minden

By Lisa Gervais

There is a definite vibe in Minden these days.

It was apparent throughout the village this past Saturday (June 13).

There was tradition as the Minden Agricultural Society presented its Haliburton County Fair, that has been going since 1864. The society has done a good job of melding old with new to attract folks.

For the traditionalists, there were horse shows, pony and horse pulls, little stirrups, and a Hereford cattle exhibit. The curling club had agricultural displays. There were ferrets and rabbits.

There was plenty to learn. For example, society member Jean Neville explained to me that ferrets have a natural, predatory instinct to hunt and kill rodents like mice and rats. For centuries, this trait has been utilized on rural farmlands through a traditional practice called "ferreting," where ferrets are sent down burrows to flush out or kill pests in confined spaces.

There were plenty of family attractions, too: a LEGO brick fun zone; a bouncy castle; paint the bus; face painting; chainsaw carving; a petting zoo; music, food and drink.

Heading downtown, plenty of folks stopped in to celebrate Minden Auto Care's opening of its OK Tire Auto Service outlet. While no doubt some were there for the free barbecue, others were curious to find out about what the change means for the business and for them as customers. Owners Dennis and Lori Pennie have bought into this new wave of positivity in the village. They were one of the first to give their storefront a facelift. They were the first to display the new Minden moose symbol out front.

Jim Ecclestone was there. He's the former businessman who bought the Rockcliffe and has given it a spruce up while deciding what its next incarnation will be. Ecclestone is really the one who spurred this renewed pride in Minden.

From his early encouragement, a Minden Business Working Group has formed. You can see the results of their efforts. The Beaver Theatre has had a paint job. Many businesses along the Bobcaygeon Road strip are looking better. Shawn Chamberlin of the Dominion has redone the façade of the Grill on the Gull and is using the space again. Brandon Nimigon continues to have work done on the brick building he has purchased. There are other signs of businesses beginning to take even greater pride in how they present to the public.

That vibe extended at the popular farmers market and artisans' market in the municipal parking lot.

On Saturday evening, one of the longer established businesses – Dollo's – celebrated 70 years in the community with a reunion of former employees.

There was a huge turnout at the community centre with many folks seeing each other for the first time in years. There were smiles of recognition and hugs of remembrance. The place was alive.

So, I tip my hat to Ecclestone, the Minden Business Working Group, the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, which is lending them support, downtown merchants, and the townspeople.

It's nice to see Minden looking better and feeling better about itself.

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

From digital to real world

By Susan Tromanhauser

Zoey Zoric. *Submitted.*

Zoey Zoric's artwork is instantly recognizable to some of a certain age. Others may have to wander into Corner Gallery in Haliburton to see her latest masterpiece.

Zoric began her professional career as part of a digital animation team creating children's programming for the Emmy-award winning *Backyardigans*, *Handy Mandy* and others. Eventually, Zoric decided she wanted to "get her hands dirty" and the artist shifted from the digital world to that of oil painting.

It was a winding road, eventually leading to Corner Gallery. At the age of 13, her mother uprooted Zoric from the suburbs of Toronto, where gang activity was beginning to infiltrate, to what her mother thought would be a safer upbringing - the rural area outside Bolton. Her closest neighbours were horses, and teenage rebellion was cow tipping. While Zoric struggled to fit in socially, it was in high school that teachers encouraged her artistic talents. She returned to Toronto to pursue animation at Sheridan College.

Resettled in Toronto, the years quickly passed, with marriage, children, home and career. While initially Zoric and her husband were happy in their Toronto neighbourhood, they found it was becoming too dense, too noisy. "My husband and I are both cyclists and so even cycling around the city was becoming problematic."

The family's annual getaway to a rental cottage to "really connect to nature and jump in the lake all week," inspired the couple. She explains, "my husband and I were not getting any younger, and the city was just swallowing us." They made the decision to move to Haliburton County.

Zoric was not concerned she was repeating the decision of her mother, uprooting a teenager to an unknown life. Her oldest son was an age where he was ready to "leave the nest, do his thing in the city." Their younger son was always interested in the trades and Zoric's research found Hal High had a more robust trades program than those in the city. Her husband's only requirement for his employment was a good internet connection.

In June 2025, they made the move to outside West Guilford. Zoric now plies her trade in her home studio, and she also uses that internet connection to teach Centennial College students to meld the arts of storytelling and visual aesthetics into computer games.

Trips to the West Guildford Shopping Centre have everything they need, and they have been welcomed into the community. Corner Gallery on Maple Avenue in Haliburton has been a lifeline for Zoric. She meets weekly with the 'coffee + canvas' group, an opportunity for local artists, whatever the medium, to come and hang out and talk. Zoric calls it a "profoundly welcoming group." The gallery also provides a venue for Zoric to display her own work.

Now celebrating her first anniversary in Haliburton, Zoric is still enjoying "the honeymoon phase," confident shifting from the digital world of the city and resetting to the natural world of Haliburton was the right move.

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Scott's voting record

Dear editor,

I woke up with the birds this morning, and started to check Laurie Scott's attendance record at Queen's Park. I thought it only fitting since they had only been in session for 29 days since having a 14-week break at Christmastime, and now are off again until Oct 27.

Scott is also the chair of the standing committee on heritage, infrastructure and cultural policy, a job that tops her up to almost $172,000-a-year.

Queen's Park doesn't take attendance. Your MPP doesn't have to sign in or punch a clock. Their attendance is tracked by voting records, or Hansard records, which are transcripts for committee meetings they attend.

This is what her voting record looks like: Voted yes to Bill 5 – gutted environmental rules; absent for freedom of information vote which allowed premier Doug Ford to hide his phone records; voted yes to adjourn government until Oct 27, a 21-week summer break; voted against Bill 112 2026 to enact Lydia's Law (transparency and accountability in handling sexual assault cases) supported by the attorney general; voted against Bill 113 – Fair Prices and Tax Free Groceries - removal of HST from food products – remove restrictions on where competition can open a store; absent for voting - Bill 1017 2026 banning all advertising for online gambling; voted against Bill 23, Protecting Seniors' Rights in Care Homes Act 2026; voted against Bill 82, protecting renters from Unfair Above Guidelines Rent Increases Act, 2026 and voted yes Bill 110 - Building Billy Bishop Airport Act.

Scott votes lockstep with Ford, whether it is in our best interests as constituents or not. Even if the opposition parties put forward a bill that would benefit us, she inevitably votes nay.

Our politicians are supposed to work for us. I don't see that happening anytime soon in the next four years, unless we make their jobs very uncomfortable.

Bonnie French
Kirkfield

Who is an American?

Dear editor,

The last time I attended a high school geography class, the teacher stated that the western hemisphere was divided into three regions - North America, Central America (including the Caribbean Islands) and South America.

Since then, I have not noticed any change in that designation.

Therefore, anyone living in those three regions could be considered to be American. But that does not seem to be the case.

Officially, the country located between Canada and Mexico is the 'United States of America.'

So, why is it that our 'friends' to the south have usurped the term American?

Quite frankly, under the current regime, why would anyone want to be called an American?

I prefer to describe myself as being a Canadian and am proud of it.

I just wish that the media would be more precise and use the designation U.S. instead of American.

Dennis Choptiany
Koshlong Lake

Clean up the mess

Dear editor,

I would be very interested in hearing from any candidates for Dysart mayor or council that have a committed agenda to enforce existing bylaws.

With this in mind, I specifically wish for you to speak with a group of residents who feel their property values have been negatively impacted by the current situation and neglect of the former Wigamog Inn property.

My thoughts are that the current administration has been negligent, indeed, in its handling of the current situation and has let the owner, The Aurora Group, and our own building department play word games with absolutely nothing being done.

The time for action is right now. Let's get a mayor and council in place with an agenda that will get this mess cleaned up and treat the local constituents with some long overdue respect.

Jerry Stokes
Haliburton

Why did the turtle cross the road?

Dear editor,

I just wanted to comment on this podcast. Firstly, how well done it was with such organized hosts and Leora Berman.

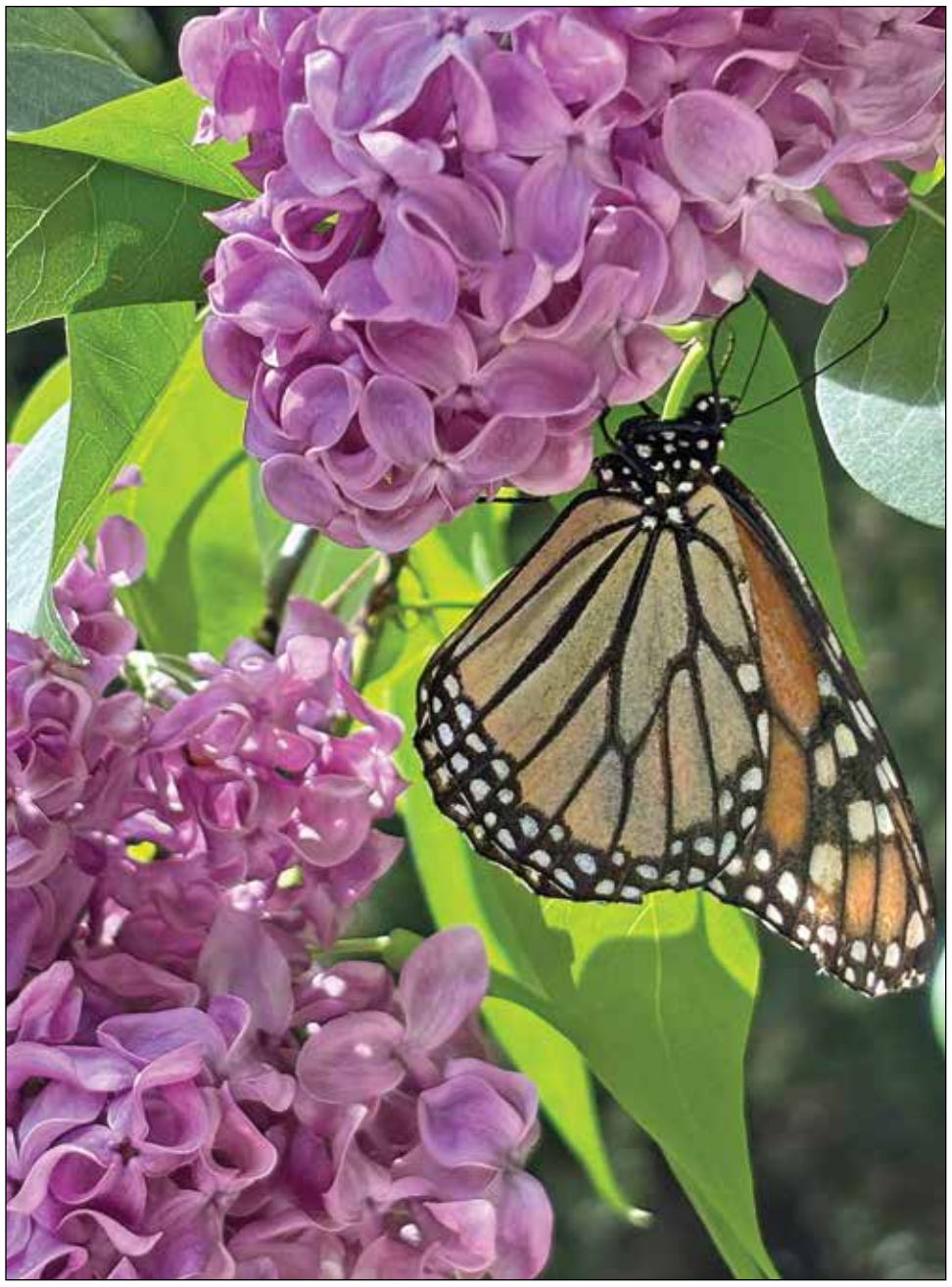
It really opened my eyes as to just how fragile this area is, including plants, insects and wildlife. She was so dead-on saying that most people only see the beauty of the forests and lakes but have no clue as to the dangerous activities going on beneath all of that.

There is so much diversity here but it's quickly slipping away, mostly caused by humans, which is tragic and devastating for all species.

Her detailed explanation of what is happening here breaks my heart and one in particular that comes to mind was the story of Grace the one-eyed turtle that was found dead but not anywhere close to where she should have been... cause?

I suspect human interference in wetlands.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Cheryl McKnight captured this beautiful Monarch resting on her lilacs.

Anyway, I just wanted to give a huge thanks for giving me the big picture of what is happening to our lands and lakes. I would highly recommend everyone listen to this, maybe a few times to get all the information that was offered. She is a very intelligent woman.

Anita Louise
Haliburton

More on Turtle Guardians podcast

Dear editor,

I'm a podcaster and producer with more than 16 million downloads (and I say this not to brag, but to establish my credentials for commenting). I listen for hours every day - way more than I should.

I started listening to this and I couldn't stop. Great topic. Intelligent interviewing. Really nice production. Fabulous local programming. Congratulations.

Jim Love
Haliburton

Protect Ontario

Dear editor,

I am writing (again) concerning the Protect Ontario ads.

I read Mike Baker's explanation of how you are obligated to run the ads and that *The Highlander* needs the money.

I take his point, but would like to see something better than "we are just following orders."

Do you have standards which keep you from publishing the truly offensive?

Will there be a breaking point when the call to authoritarianism gets naked enough that you will push back?

Tom Needham
Lake Kashagawigamog

Correction: In the June 4 edition of The Highlander, in the story 'landfill changes' in Dysart et al briefs, we incorrectly stated council approved terminating construction and demolition waste (C&D) services at the Harcourt landfill. That was a recommendation made by consultant, JP2G, though not endorsed by environmental manager Ashley Dembinski or supported by council, as outlined in the story. The Harcourt site will continue accepting C&D materials. We apologize for this error.

Highlander people

Just the Highlands

Wilberforce school secretary celebrated

By Mike Baker

Sandy MacDonald has always believed it takes a village to raise a child and, for the past four years, she's put that into practice at Wilberforce Elementary School.

Secretary at the rural school, MacDonald was recognized with a Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) director's award in April for her role bringing several beneficial programs to life.

TLDSB's Wes Hahn credited her for helping launch hot breakfast and lunch programs for students, developing partnerships with various community groups to bolster extracurricular offerings and putting together recurring events, such as free barbecues and health and wellness fairs.

"Sandy has a remarkable ability to identify emerging needs within the school community and take initiative to address them in meaningful and lasting ways," Hahn said. "Her efforts have had a direct and lasting impact on students and families."

Nominated for the award by principal Mike Gervais, MacDonald said it was a huge surprise.

She joined the school in 2022 following stints working in Peterborough, Bracebridge and Port Sydney. While she's always tried to expand social programs at her previous schools, MacDonald said the community response in Wilberforce has been particularly special.

"I've always tried to get the community more involved everywhere I've been, but in Wilberforce especially it seems like people actually want to be a part of the school and have a positive impact on kids. It's a beautiful community," she said.

Sandy MacDonald, centre, was recognized with a TLDSB director's award in April. Pictured with Colleen Wilcox, Gary Brohman, Mike Gervais and Wes Hahn. *Photo submitted.*

Partnerships have been struck with the local legions, Wilberforce FUNraisers, the Wilberforce Walkers, Breakfast Clubs of Canada and several businesses, including Shoppers Drug Mart, Todd's Independent Grocer, Rexall and Timber Mart.

Individual residents also regularly chip in. Angelo and Brandi Bortolazzo, organizers of the Benoir Lake Radar Run, have been longtime supporters of the schools' nutrition programs and, on May 25, put on a free BBQ for students and families that attended the spring health fair in Wilberforce.

Speaking to other donations she's seen recently, the Bortolazzos donated a washing machine and dryer to Cardiff Elementary School, for the kindergarten class; a lady bought a pair of flip-flops for every student at Cardiff elementary; while a recent import from Toronto made a financial contribution after learning about all the good things the schools do.

"He was shocked, he said it's like a private school with all the things we have going on and the meals we provide to our kids," MacDonald said.

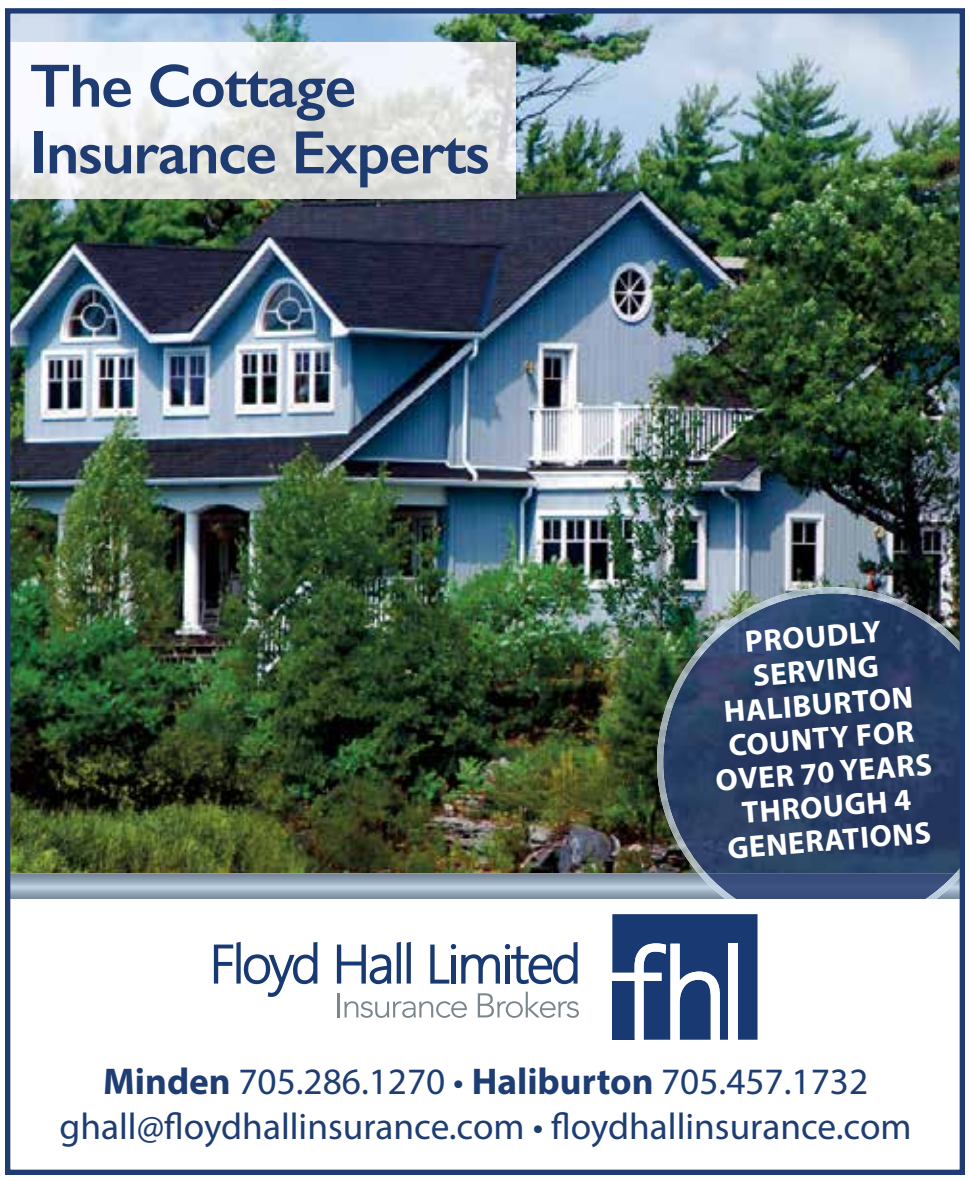
She noted 35 of 49 students in Wilberforce utilize the lunch program, with everyone benefitting from the breakfast programs. Other initiatives include weekly pickleball at The Lloyd Watson Centre and crochet and knitting classes provided by a local volunteer.

"I just start thinking of ideas when I'm sitting at my desk. What can we do to enrich these kids' lives, make things better or more fun for them," MacDonald said. "There are a lot of families who struggle in our community, so when I hear those stories, I do some research, talk to some people and, usually, we find a way to help."

Preparing for her retirement this month, MacDonald said she'll miss the day-to-day of life at the school but has no intention of completely walking away. She plans to volunteer and wants to expand her hot breakfast and lunch programs to other schools in the County.

Speaking to the award, she feels it should be shared with the wider community.

"This isn't just a one person effort. It's everybody. It takes an entire community to pull this together. There are so many people who deserve recognition," she said.



It's nicer here

No blues as Canoe show wins award

By Lisa Gervais

CanoeFM was recognized at the recent National Campus and Community Radio Association (NCRA) awards, with Lorne VanSinclair winning for his show, Backbeat Radio, in the blues or similar music category.

The NCRA announced the winners of its 2026 Community Radio Awards in Broadcast and Online awards in May.

"These awards are a way to highlight the incredible work everyone has done and give it the recognition they deserve," station manager, Roxanne Casey, said.

Casey said years ago, VanSinclair reached out to CanoeFM with an idea for a blues program — and the station proudly gave him the opportunity to bring his passion to local listeners.

"Backbeat has since grown from a community radio show in Haliburton County to an internationally-heard program airing on approximately 30 stations and online platforms across Canada, the U.S., Germany, and beyond," Casey said.

VanSinclair said as a child, the family's TV never worked, so he constantly listened to radio.

"But it was rock and roll, which is a combination of blues and country and gospel and pop. It was all mixed in there at the time, and I just became more fascinated with the music that went into it."

He began buying vinyl. He found music from the 30s, 40s and 50s, "just had a special character about it; that was much more creative; nobody had ever done this before." He also loved the production value; being able to hear individual instruments.

Lorne VanSinclair in his home recording studio. *Submitted.*

VanSinclair said the hard part for him was explaining to award judges what he does because, "it's not exactly a blues show." He refers to it as "vintage popular music," while acknowledging it's blues-based.

"Basically, all popular music comes from the blues, and I play a lot of really good blues stuff, but also Eddie Arnold, country, pop music. I play everything mostly from the 20s to the 60s, and that's kind of hard to explain." He loves that community radio allows him to play what he wants and not have to stick to a formula.

He's asked what goes into putting a show out. "I go through my digital collection and pick out music I want to play. The hardest part is deciding what order to play it in, because when you're playing something that's widely varied like that, it has to sound good together. It always has to sound like one continuous piece of music, even though it could be recorded 100 years apart by totally different artists."

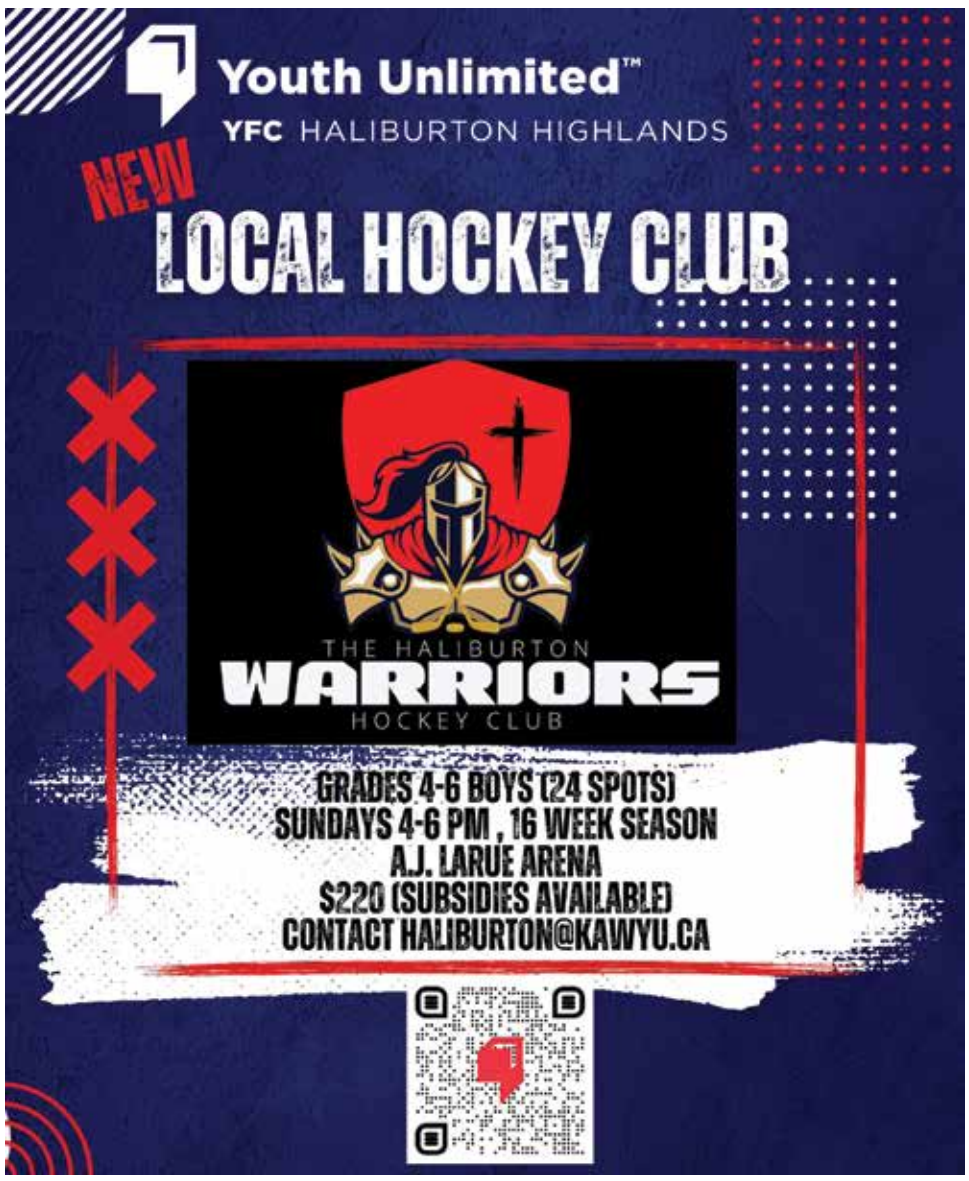
He also finds bands playing vintage music as, "even though I'm doing a show on 50s music, I didn't want to do a show just about dead people. I always invite current musicians who are playing music in that same style."

The host added the award is a feather in the cap for CanoeFM. "It is just a fabulous station, so it's good to see them getting a bit of notice themselves. They're always called the little station that could. They really punch above their weight."

When asked if his mission is to keep music alive he said, "very much … because a lot of the music I play is really obscure. I'd much rather be playing to a very young audience who is hearing all his stuff for the first time and saying, 'whoa, what the heck was that? I didn't know that was around'."

And he intends to keep on doing the show, "for as long as I'm able."

Casey couldn't be happier, saying, "Lorne's story reflects the heart of Canoe FM — a community station where passionate volunteers and experienced broadcasters can share their talents, preserve musical history, and connect listeners locally and around the world." You can hear Backbeat every Sunday morning at 10 a.m.



Highlander business

ADVERTORIAL

When did the cottage become work?

Raspberry plants produce the most delicious fruit and the most painful headaches.

I was standing on the patio of a new client's cottage the other week. They'd landscaped the building with beautiful tiers of stones that dropped towards the lake and its natural shoreline. It was well designed and executed – they'd clearly got one of Haliburton's top-notch landscapers to do the job.

But something was wrong. Mainly the raspberries.

My clients sighed and gestured at the area beyond the patio. The landscaping had run away from them.

When you get to visit the cottage only on weekends, this can happen. The most well-executed landscaping project can go wrong when you don't have time to take care of it.

And when that happens, a weekend away turns into a task list instead of a boat ride. Exactly the opposite of what's meant to happen.

The future is written

This happens with the best of intentions and it starts on the drawing board.

Any landscaping project comes with a contract with the future. While the tiers of stones solve a problem, they also create a commitment of maintenance.

We don't want to think about that. Once the crews have gone, we're delighted with the results. The cottage is finished, the lake is accessible. Everything is new and perfect.

But like most things – your car, your home, your puppy (looking at you, Rufus) – a shiny or fluffy new thing is just the beginning.

With landscaping, that looks like weeds. Nature loves to fill a vacuum, so the new topsoil you added soon gets filled with plants. This is ecological succession: some plants are ideally suited to colonizing disturbed ground, and those plants are the ones we consider the most annoying. Like dandelions and raspberries.

A future with these plants was written the day we signed the contract with the landscaper.

By Simon Payn

So we're set up with a choice where each option is as bad as the next. We can spend our weekends pulling raspberries and adding mulch, or we can let it all run riot and feel sick and guilty.

Never done

We want to build the ideal cottage with its ideal landscaping and then we want to be done.

But nature is never done. It's always in the process of moving from the past into the future. It's always growing and it's always dying. Which means more leaves and more dead stems, more new plants in places you thought they'd never grow.

The problem lies when we don't accept this, when we kid ourselves that nature will sit back and behave just how we want it.

What if instead we work with it? I'm not saying we allow nature to run riot – although that is an option… those raspberries will be replaced by shrubs and the whole thing will be forest again.

Instead I'm saying we follow the land's direction from the beginning. We recognize that if we create landscaping with bare soil, that soil will need to be covered, so why not cover it with something whose niche is to solve your problem without you needing hours with a spade – something less annoying than raspberries.

> Like most new things – your car, hour home, your puppy – a shiny or fluffy new thing is just the beginning.

I know what's going to happen here. The raspberries will be gone and in their space will be a dense planting of swaying grasses that turn bronze at Labour Day, mountain mints that host scores of pollinators, and the scented leaves of flowering bergamots.

And my clients will stop having to bring a trowel when they walk to the lake.

Simon Payn owns Grounded, which designs, installs and cares for ecological landscapes. Visit groundedgardens.ca.

Brandon Nimigon, Tara Fleming, Summer Shimizo and Megan Nimigon at the new Scoop Shack in Haliburton village. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Haliburton scoops new ice cream shop

By Mike Baker

Ice cream cones have been flying out of the sliding windows of a familiar spot in Haliburton village over the past week.

Brandon and Megan Nimigon have breathed new life into the former CoolLicks property, relaunching as the Scoop Shack on June 9. Brandon said he and his wife had been working on the idea since early winter.

"This is such an iconic place with a lot of history. I think Haliburton deserves a cute little cottage ice cream shop," Brandon said. "We've had people coming into the [Century 21] office and randomly asking 'where is the ice cream in Haliburton' but for the past couple of years we really haven't had anywhere, which seems silly for our town.

"We have a great downtown, beautiful park. Now there's a place for people to get ice cream again," he added, noting the establishment is starting out with 18 flavours from Kawartha Dairy.

The space will be open six days a week through summer, Tuesday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Brandon said hours may be extended once summer fully kicks off. The Nimigons have hired four people to run the store.

Being a longtime customer of previous ice cream operations in the downtown, Brandon said it was a cool full-circle moment opening Scoop Shack. Megan said the couple almost bought the building when it went up for sale a couple of years ago, but interest truly set in after they purchased the Bernstein's property in February.

"The kid inside me is so excited," Brandon said. Megan added their own children, Ellie and Bennett, are a close second and third.

"Ellie said to us after one of our first nights, 'I never thought my parents would own an ice cream store'. She's so desperate to work there. She's been waiting and waiting to tell all of her friends that we're open," Megan said.

They've leased the space for now and are locked in for the summer season – anything beyond that will be determined by how well the business does, Brandon said.

"I think this is something Haliburton needs, but we'll see. It'll just be Kawartha Dairy ice cream cones for now, but I can see us expanding to milkshakes and soft-serve ice cream if things go well," Brandon said.

Asked how renovations were going next door, Brandon said he just secured building permits from the township paving the way for interior restoration at Bernstein's. The plan remains to turn the space into three storefronts – a new office for Century 21 and two fresh businesses.

"We're hopefully a couple months away from seeing something happen there. Work is really ramping up now and we're hoping to have someone in there later this summer," Brandon said.

Highlands iconic 12-sided B&B closes

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

After close to four decades, nearly 25,000 guests, and countless memories shared inside one of Haliburton County's iconic architectural landmarks, Don and Jessie Pflug have closed the doors of the Stouffer Mill Bed & Breakfast.

For 37 years, the Pflugs welcomed 24,968 guests at their unique residence in Algonquin Highlands. And if it wasn't for Father Time, the couple would have likely continued along with hosting visitors from afar. Don will celebrate his 89th birthday on July 29, the exact same day the couple is scheduled to pack up and move to Minden.

"Age and the property is a lot of work," Don explained when asked when he knew it was time. "We don't have any employees, we do it all ourselves, and I keep the road open in the winter, and I look after it in the summer and everything. And Jess is a little younger than me, but, you know, she has the brunt of the bed and breakfast because she's doing breakfast every day."

The building itself was a local wonder in the Highlands. It is a dodecagon, a symmetrical, 12-sided structure that was built 50 years ago by original owner Elgin Stouffer.

Don and Jessie Pflug inside their iconic B&B. *Photo by Adam Frisk*

"He built it out of his head," Don recalled. "There are no plans. I didn't get any plans with it."

Each wall contains a heavy steel rod, leaving the entire upper floor suspended from above. The foundation is just as sturdy, featuring a massive central tank in a full basement with a poured concrete floor thick enough that the owners used to seamlessly drive their car in a full circle around it.

"So the house is not going anywhere," Don said with a laugh.

Don and Jessie's venture into the B&B business started by accident, essentially. In 1989, the couple was working in real estate when the housing market suddenly tanked. Left with few options, they took a leap of faith on the unique property, which sat on 136 acres of forest featuring five kilometres of trails, which Don had carved out.

The idea for the business came simply on a quiet morning overlooking Halls Lake.

"We came up one morning and looked out at the lake, and it was absolutely beautiful," Jessie said. "Don said to me, 'You know, Jessie, we should be sharing this.' And I said, 'well, why don't we start a bed and breakfast?' We said, 'okay, let's do it.' That was the amount of thought we put into it."

For nearly 40 years of operation, the three-bedroom B&B generated staggering statistics with 37 years in business and 25 consecutive years of visits from a single group of friends.

When Stouffer Mill first opened, the internet as we know it did not exist. The Pflugs built their reputation through physical guidebooks, local word-of-mouth, and expensive radio advertisements. Their breakthrough came via a snail-mail invitation from a new website called BB Canada. Don and Jessie signed up immediately.

Decades later, that adaptability saved them during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the hospitality industry took a massive hit, Don researched hospital-grade disinfectants, bought a fine-particle paint sprayer, and carefully sanitized every railing and surface. They divided their dining spaces into three isolated areas, turning their rural property into a much-needed refuge for isolated city dwellers.

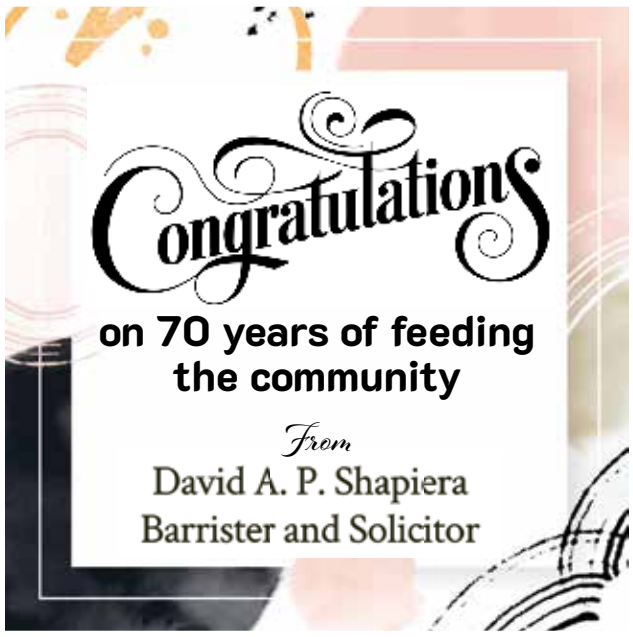
"People from the city, if you were in a condo, you had to get away," Jessie recalled. "They could come here, walk the trails, and just breathe. It gave Don and me a purpose through COVID."

As for saying goodbye, the announcement of the closure was met with tears, hugs, and an outpouring of messages on social media from around the world. Over the decades, the mill hosted everything from standard road-trippers to international weddings, including a memorable winter wedding on New Year's Eve and a ceremony where a bride's parents flew in directly from Shanghai.

So what's next? The 12-sided house is transitioning into a private residence, and Don and Jessie are downsizing to Minden to stay close to their church and friends. They have zero plans to slow down. Don is already eyeing a return to the curling rink, and both intend to find new volunteer roles.

"I just like to thank them all for finding us and adding to the quality of our life," Jessie said of the nearly 25,000 past guests. "It was always like opening a Christmas present when a guest came to the door. We cherish every one of them."

Congratulations dollo's

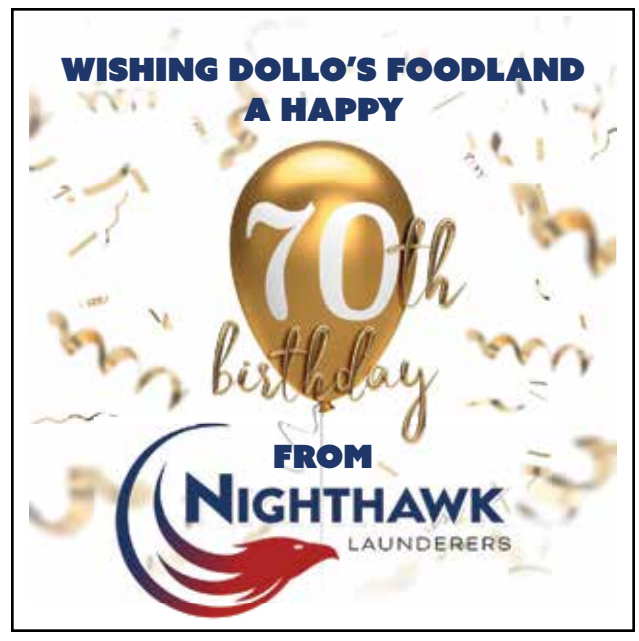


Here's to
70 YEARS!
TheHighlander

Celebrating 70

The Dollo family celebrated 70 years in Minden June 13 with a reunion of past – and current – employees at the community centre. Brothers, Peter and Joe Dollo, opened Dollo Brothers IGA Food Market on Bobcaygeon Road, where the Little Beans Café is now, in 1956. They eventually moved to 163 Bobcaygeon Rd. before landing at their current location along Hwy. 35.

This page: Top: Sandy Kriss (Gouge) with Curt Rogers. Bottom left: Eleanor Hall, Sandrice Garry, Carol Thompson, Denise Buchanan and Winn Taylor. Bottom right: Diane Dollo greets some past employees. Opposite page: Top: Reunion organizer John Davis. Middle left: DJ Chris Evans spun some tunes. Middle right: Scott Harrison and David Dollo. Bottom left: Fraser Rogers catches up with Paul and Adrienne Winslow. Bottom right: Louise Neimann (Dollo) with Wayne Johnson. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*



Congratulations dollo's

...And
70 MORE!
TheHighlander

We're celebrating
what you've built, Dollo's.
QUANTUM
PASSIVHAUS · PREFAB · COMPONENTS
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HAPPY
70TH
YEARS ANNIVERSARY
FROM
ROYAL HOMES

70
ANNIVERSARY
A part of this community for generations.
Thank you, Dollos.
Gordon R. Monk Funeral Home Ltd. & Pre-Planning Centre
www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

Congrats on your
70th
ANNIVERSARY
From
MINDEN SUBARU

Highlander community

Curtis Eastmure was honoured for his accessibility contributions.*Submitted.*

County council rewards accessibility champions

By Lisa Gervais

The County of Haliburton handed out its first-ever accessibility awards during a ceremony before a May 27 council meeting.

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux, on behalf of council's joint accessibility advisory committee, said, "today marks an important milestone for our County as we recognize the people, businesses and organizations within Haliburton County whose actions help make our community more inclusive, welcoming and accessible for all."

She added, "accessibility is about more than removing barriers. It is about creating spaces, services and opportunities where everyone can participate fully and with dignity. These awards shine a light on leadership, compassion and commitment that helps move us forward together."

Community member Curtis Eastmure was awarded for his work in helping to get hand railings installed at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. Dailloux said a representative of Aging Together as Community approached Eastmure about the need and he took quick action to get it fulfilled.

Sir Sam's Ski/Ride won in the business category. Dailloux discussed a number of initiatives they have undertaken that makes the hill accessible for everyone, including seniors, and people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Some examples include barrier-free washrooms, a wheelchair ramp, seniors' rates, and the CADS (Canadian Adaptive Snowsports) program. The program provides support for persons who have physical or intellectual disabilities.

The other recipients were the Haliburton Legion's Mike and Cheryl Waller. The legion recently installed a lift, ramp, handsfree entrance doors, accessible washrooms and parking. Dailloux called them "champions of access."

She said all of the winners had made a "meaningful difference" to our community.

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REMARKABLE REALTORS

NEW LISTING

Jim Allder* (705) 935-1112

Spar Lake $659,900
- Private 2 Acres, 3BR Cottage, 320ft WF
- Sandy Entry & Deep Water Off Dock
- Motor-Restricted Lake, Peace & Quiet!

NEW PRICE

Andy Campbell* (705) 854-0292

Burdock Lake $499,000
- 2 Bedroom, 3 Season Cottage
- Very Neat with Many Upgrades
- Non-Motorized Lake, 106ft Deep WF

Gloria Carnochan* & Breann Budel* (705) 754-1932

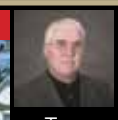
West Guilford Home $524,900
- 3-bed home on 4.9 acres, private
- Walk to lake, garage, heat pumps
- Renovate or build; big frontage

NEW LISTING

Mark Dennys* (705) 457-0473

Miskwabi Lake $1,249,900
- 3 Beds/2 Bath, 4-Season Home/Cottage
- Beach, Dock & Screened Gazebo, Garage
- Workshop & Loft Suite, 2-Lake Chain

NEW PRICE



Tom Ecclestone* (705) 754-5101

Minden Home $449,000
- In Town Minden Home 3 bdrms/2 baths
- Walk to all the conveniences
- Beautifully Renovated, a must see

Lindsay Elder* (705) 457-5878

Your Dream Home Awaits!
- Now is the perfect time to get your home or cottage on the market!
- Call me for a market evaluation!

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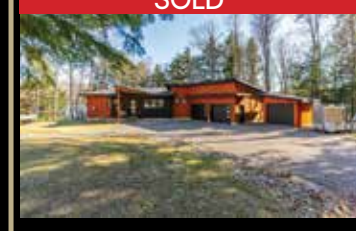


Melanie Maxwell-Hevesi** & Andrea Wilson** (705) 854-1000

Long Lake
- 3bd, 2ba, 2000sqft, 2020 custom build
- 43+ acres, Sunny south views, 420ft WF
- 2-car gar, Propane FA, A/C, central vac

NEW LISTING

Andrew Hodgson** (705) 854-0130

Haliburton Home $575,000
- 3 Bd Home on Lrg In-Town Lot, Rec Rm
- Private Deck, Garage, & Workshop
- Minutes To Shops, Schools & Hospital

NEW PRICE

Susanne James* & Andy Mosher** (705) 457-2128 ext. 133

Miskwabi Lake - $925,000
- 190ft waterfront, Sandy shore, Lake views
- Custom kitchen, Wraparound Deck
- 3 Beds, 2 Baths, Screened porch, Garage

Karyn Linton Marra* (705) 306-7515

Long Lake Gem! $524,999
- Beautifully renovated top to bottom
- 3 bd, 1 bth, large deck, fully furnished
- Perfect for active cottagers!

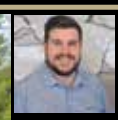
Kathy Martin* (705) 457-7592

Cozy Country Living $475,000
- 2 Bed Bungalow on 0.72 Acres
- Fenced Yard, Gardens, Minutes to Town
- Major Updates, Perennial Gardens

OPEN HOUSE

Ashley McKeigue* (705) 854-1833

Luxury Condo Living $464,900
- 2 Beds, 2 Baths, Bright Corner Suite
- Covered Balcony with Sunset Views
- OPEN HOUSE: Sat, June 27 @ 11am-2pm



Brandon Nimigon*** (705) 457-8631

Gull River Retreat $680,000
- Renovated 3 Bedroom Bungalow
- Direct Boat Access to Gull Lake
- New Septic, Dock & Guest Bunkie

OPEN HOUSE

Karen Nimigon** (705) 457-6505

Eagle Lake Road $699,000
- 3+1bd, 2ba, Large, sun-filled lot, Private
- Finished basement + workshop, Garage
- OPEN HOUSE: Sat, June 20 @ 1pm-3pm

NEW PRICE

Kelly Kay* (705) 457-6841 Kirsten Rae* (705) 854-1454

Boshkung Lake $589,900
- Shallow sandy beach on Boshkung
- Private 2-bed cottage + guest bunkie
- Sunshine, views & lakefront fun!

NEW LISTING

Darlene Reil* (705) 854-2055

Fortescue Lake Lot $199,000
- Sandy Shoreline & South Exposure
- Year-Round Road Access
- Nicely Treed with Excellent View

Christine Sharp* (416) 566-1592

Sharon Lake $425,000
- 3-bed cottage on quiet no-motor lake
- Sandy beach, dock & sunset views
- 10 mins to Minden. Family-ready!

Melanie Vigrass* (705) 754-5494

Minden Condo $434,900
- Primary Bdrm w/3 pc Ens & W/I Closet
- Den/Office, 2 Pc Bath, In-Suite Laundry
- Large Deck, Underground Parking

NEW LISTING

Tom Wilkinson** (705) 457-6839 Lindsay Wilkinson* (705) 854-1454

4-Plex in Carnarvon $875,000
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STINGRAY 172 SC 2025

$45,995 *

Yamaha F90, Ski Pole, Bimini Top, Tonneau Cover

MONTEREY M22

NEW PRICE **$89,995 ***

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$45,995 *

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BENNINGTON 21 SL

$75,695 *

Yamaha F115, SPS Triple toon, hydraulic steering, Blackout Package, Ski Bar Echomap

STINGRAY 191 DC

$53,795 *

Yamaha VF115 SHO, Ski pole, Bimini top, Tilt Steering, Battery Switch

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Highlander community

Looking good at 162

The Haliburton County Fair took over the Minden Fairgrounds June 13 with a full day of events. The Minden Agricultural Society has been presenting the fair since 1864. On the agricultural side, there were light horse shows, little stirrups, horse pulls, exhibits in the curling club, and a cattle exhibit. The day also featured a ton of family fun events, vendors, exhibits and live music.

Top: Kenzie Miscio on Sassy during the light horse show. Second: Kiera Swarbrick paints a school bus. Third: Janet Rowe in the light horse show. Bottom: Competitors in the horse pull. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

WWW.THEHIGHLANDER.CA

The Cardiff Food Bank is being renamed 'Cam's Cupboard' in honour of Cam McKenzie, who spend a decade volunteering at the facility from 2015-25. *Submitted.*

Cardiff opens doors to Cam's Cupboard

By Mike Baker

The Cardiff food bank has been renamed in honour of one of its longest-tenured volunteers, outgoing Highlands East coun. Cam McKenzie.

The space will be known as 'Cam's Cupboard' in recognition of the decade McKenzie spent working there. He joined the food bank, operated by Central Food Network (CFN), in 2015 when it was operating out of the basement of the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.

Through his 10 years with CFN, McKenzie helped transition the food bank to its current location at the back of the Cardiff Post Office at 2778 Monck Rd., planned volunteer work schedules, arranged bulk food pick-ups and community drop offs and oversaw community shopping days.

He stepped down from his volunteer role last spring after going through some serious health scares. That's the reason the three-term councillor has also decided to call it quits with Highlands East, confirming on June 15 that he won't be seeking re-election.

Asked for some of his standout memories from volunteering with CFN, McKenzie said it's the connections he's made that he holds close. One story about assisting a family with three growing boys always stands out.

"We helped a lot of people over the years, but this family I especially remember. We used to get a good deal on apples from a local producer, so I told the mom to grab a grocery bag and fill it halfway full with apples for her boys. They couldn't believe it," McKenzie said. "They left the food bank that day so excited because each of the boys would have an apple for their lunch every day that week. That's the kind of thing this is all about."

McKenzie said he found out CFN was planning something earlier this year. He was supposed to attend a gathering at the Cardiff food bank a few months ago but had to cancel last-minute following a difficult morning health-wise. CFN's Tina Jackson had arranged for McKenzie's two children to be there for a surprise unveiling of the new sign, which is hanging by the main entrance.

"I felt bad about missing that one," McKenzie said. "It does make you feel good, being recognized like this. I don't think it's necessary. I've had a lot of help over the years and there's a great team in place now… the food bank is established, where it really wasn't when I got involved."

Jackson paid homage to McKenzie at CFN's annual general meeting, held virtually May 28. She said he "gave so much of himself" to the Cardiff food bank, establishing a reputation that will live on long into the future.

"His compassion, stewardship and empathy for neighbours have created a legacy that will endure," Jackson said.

An unveiling ceremony for the sign will be held June 30 at the food bank.

Three terms and out

McKenzie was first elected in 2014 as the Ward 1 representative for Bicroft. He was re-elected for a second term in 2018 and acclaimed in 2022.

At 78 years of age, McKenzie said he was following the advice of one of his Hollywood heroes, Clint Eastwood, who in the 1971 classic *Dirty Harry* said, "a man's got to know his limitations."

McKenzie added, "I've enjoyed my 12 years on council, but my health is telling me no more."

The outgoing official believes it's an interesting time to get involved in municipal politics, with the County spearheading a project looking for ways for the four lower-tier townships to work more closely together.

"The new affordability and feasibility review is maybe the most important thing I've been involved in as a councillor. The decisions made on that file will impact people for generations," McKenzie said.

FLOOD 2026 COMMUNITY & VOLUNTEER THANK YOU

You are invited to an appreciation event occurring on Thursday June 18, 2026 from 5:30pm-7:30pm at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena dry arena floor

- Light Refreshments
- Thank you address
- Bouncy Castle for children
- Meet and mingle

Please RSVP by registering online, emailing communityservicesbookings@mindenhills.ca or calling the CSD Administration Desk at (705) 286-1936 x554

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

To the many volunteers and community members who helped during the recent flooding in Minden Hills, we say

THANK YOU

Words cannot express our deep appreciation for everyone coming together and helping wherever it was needed throughout the flood and recovery phase.

We humbly say thank you to:

- All the individuals, businesses and volunteers who provided donations of food, water, signs, toiletries, and support for the Evacuation/Warming Centre
- The individuals and businesses who provided fuel, equipment, and other services
- Everyone who helped to fill and move sandbags
- The area groups, service clubs and organizations who helped wherever and however needed
- The groups from beyond Haliburton County who came to help
- Our Lady of Fatima Church and A.L.L. Glass and Mirror for providing space for filled sandbags during the emergency
- The Haliburton Chamber of Commerce for assisting with organizing community volunteers
- The Township of Algonquin Highlands, the Municipality of Dysart et al, Municipality of Highlands East and the County of Haliburton for assisting with resources wherever needed
- The Township staff and Minden Fire Department for all your efforts during the emergency and the recovery
- EMS, OPP and Fire Personnel for conducting wellness checks for our residents
- The Honourable Jill Dunlop Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response and our MPP, Laurie Scott for advocating and providing needed resources to help our community during the flood

Support for our Emergency Control Group

- Thank you to the County of Haliburton, EMS, OPP, Emergency Management Ontario, Lakelands Public Health, Parks Canada, Haliburton Highlands Health Services, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Clean Water Agency for supporting us with resources, equipment and assistance as key members of our Emergency Control Group
- To the Township staff members who make up the Emergency Control Group

To everyone, you all went above and beyond, and we say thank you again.

"In times of adversity or challenge, you gain insight into the character of the people in our community. During the April flood in Minden Hills, the community showed their true heart through acts of generosity, kindness and hard work. It is humbling to witness the amazing support for our community and each other. The adage it takes a village, was how we were able to navigate the challenges with the 2026 flood."

– Mayor Bob Carter

Highlander community

Moose spotting

The Minden Moose was spotted at the grand opening of OK Tire – Minden Auto Care June 13 – along with Minden Business Working Group champion, Jim Ecclestone. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

ALL ABOUT HI, THE HIGHLANDER'S NEW APP

Why we made it

Three years ago, Meta banned Canadian media companies from Facebook and Instagram. Since then, the quality of information on these platforms has deteriorated. Instead of trustworthy news, there is misinformation, anger, and division. We believe that's bad for Haliburton County.

We created this app to solve that problem: to make a space that is just for our community, without the downsides of social media.

What's on it

You'll find verified, accurate news from our reporters, including breaking news alerts. You will also find information from local not-for-profits, service organizations and municipalities. The feed is in strict chronological order – there's no algorithm to track or manipulate you.

How to get it

The best way is to go to thehighlander.app on your cellphone On your first visit, you'll get a message encouraging you to install the app on your phone. Click this and the app will appear on your home screen so you can easily find it again.

How to use it

You don't need to create an account to use the app. But if you do, there are two benefits. First, you can choose which categories you want to see. Second, you can get notifications on your phone. There's a breaking news category, so anytime there is something urgent and important happening in the county, you can be notified. To create an account, just follow the links on the screen.

Why you can't comment on it

We know you might enjoy commenting on Facebook. But a downside of comments is that misinformation can spread. Without moderation, which is an impossible job for us, the value of the app would be lost. The Highlander's reporters are trained journalists, which means they follow rules so that what they post is as accurate as possible. They are also accountable because they live and work in our community. If they make a mistake, readers tell us – and we fix it. We hope that this approach will create an environment that is useful and pleasant.

How to advertise on Hi

We will be funding the app by offering a limited number of spots to local advertisers who want to reach people in Haliburton County. For more information, contact Aidan (aidan@thehighlander.ca).

How to give us feedback

Email Adam (adam@thehighlander.ca) or stop by our office in Haliburton village.

It's nicer here

Hi has a slogan: It's nicer here. Imagine getting all your important news and information about Haliburton County from a trustworthy source. No algorithms, no trolls, no lies. Just 100% pure news and information. It's calm and friendly. It's real. Just like our beautiful Highlands. It's nicer here.

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They have rhythm

Aging Together as Community hosted its 'we've got rhythm' event at the West Guilford Recreation Centre June 14. It featured a barbecue lunch courtesy of Boshkung Smokehouse. Gary Baumgartner sang; Martin Miller, an Ojibwe knowledge holder of customs and practices, spoke; Marci Mandel and Biljana Webb did a sound space ceremony; Yasmin Bollywood danced; and Mixed Bag's Dave Bathe and George Porter performed.

Top: Gary Baumgartner delivered a soulful performance of original songs, classic rock, blues and mixed pop. Bottom left: Doug Ingle gets his face painted by Pockets the Facepainter. Bottom right: Eric Lilius and Carolynn Coburn enjoyed the afternoon. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

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What's on

At attention

The 1129 Haliburton Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps. Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment hosted the 41st annual ceremonial review on June 9 at the Haliburton Legion. Reviewing officer, retired CWO Nick Bryant, oversaw the review of the young cadets and family members looked on. Several cadets were recognized for their service during the event. *Photos by Adam Frisk*

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NOTICE OF A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING - COMMUNITY-WIDE AFFORDABILITY AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE STUDY

Take Notice there will be a Special Meeting of Council held Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 1:00 PM in the Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, ON.

The Special Council Meeting is being held for a facilitated session with the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) to gather Council's input for the Community-wide Affordability and Governance Structure Study."

Please visit our website for further details.

BID OPPORTUNITY

The Township of Minden Hills currently has the following tenders available:

• RFP No. RDS 26-002 Roads Needs Study, Speed Limit Review and Traffic Speed Study

See Bid Opportunities on our website for more information.

WATCH FOR YOUR NEW WASTE CARD

Your 2026/2027 Waste Disposal Card or Waste Site Access Card will be included with your Final Tax Bill. This Card is red and valid starting July 1. Final Tax Bills are mailed out in June — please watch for it! Don't toss your current green card — it remains valid until June 30.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• *The 2026 Members' Exhibition of the Arts Council ~* Haliburton Highlands will be on display until July 18.

• *Museum of Her*, a new exhibition by artist Michèle Karch-Ackerman will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery (Kirkwood Room) until July 18.

• *Miijim: Traditional Foods of the Anishinaabeg* will be on display at the MHCC until August 29.

• Free screening of Wilfred Buck (2024) on Thursday, June 18 at 1:00 PM. Presented in collaboration with the Haliburton County Public Library. Admission is free.

• The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village, and Nature's Place is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm for tours and self-guided activities! Stop by Fridays at 11 am for the Toddler Discover Zone, and Saturdays at 11 am for Hands-On activities! All are welcome.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

CANADA DAY

Canada Day Celebration planning is well underway! Check out the online events calendar on the Minden Hills website for a full list of events occurring on Wednesday July 1, 2026.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING: TOWNSHIP'S FEES AND CHARGES BY-LAW

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, June 25, 2026, during its Regular Council Meeting regarding proposed changes of the Township's Fees and Charges By-law to:

• Schedule A – (Septic Re-inspection Program) **Please note that the proposed Building fees have been removed.**
• Schedule I – Environment Water, Sewer, and Landfill

The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON. Details of proposed changes will be made available in the coming week.

For more information, please visit our website.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

• June 18 – Special Council Meeting
• June 25 – Regular Council Meeting
• July 23 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

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What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed.
Tuesdays: Cadets after school starts at 5 p.m., meeting starts at 6 p.m. Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Darts league 7 p.m. start.
Wednesdays: Office and clubroom closed
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month, March to December; ladies auxiliary meeting last Thursday of the month, February to November.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prize each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets are $2 per draw; fun darts at 4:30 p.m. onwards; 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday closed; Tuesday 5-9 p.m.; Wednesday closed; Thursday 3-6 p.m., Friday 3-7 p.m., Saturday/Sunday closed.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' **Tuesday**.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Tuesday: closed, special events only.
Wednesday: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Thursday: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Friday: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Saturday: open 2 to 9 p.m.
Sunday: closed, special events only.

Royal Canadian Legion – Branch 566 Cardiff

Hours: Sunday and Monday 3 to 6 p.m. and **Thursday** 3 to 9 p.m.
Events: Breakfast on the first **Sunday** of each month from 9 to 11 a.m.; euchre on the second **Sunday** of each month at 12:30 p.m.
Shuffleboard every **Thursday** from 7 to 9 p.m.
Music and jam session ever second **Saturday** of the month from 1 to 4 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 441 Kinmount

Mondays: Bid euchre at 1 p.m.
Tuesdays: Closed
Wednesdays: Mixed darts at 7:30 p.m.
Thursdays: Closed
Fridays: Clubroom opens at 4 p.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with play beginning at 6:45 p.m. Supper specials starting at 5 p.m.
Saturdays: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m. Meat draw at 5:30 p.m.

Third **Thursday** of the month is the executive meeting at 7 p.m. and general meeting at 7:30 p.m. Third **Sunday** of the month is the ladies auxiliary meeting.

EVENTS

June 18, 1 p.m. The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is hosting a free screening of *Wilfred Buck*, a documentary on the Cree Elder and his teachings on astronomy and cosmology. Admission is free, no pre-registration required.

June 19, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild is hosting a quilting show at the Minden Curling Club. Come out to see some amazing pieces made by talented locals. All are welcome. Also running June 20.

June 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bookapalooza at the Minden Community Centre. Come and find your next great read, with more than 40 local exhibitors showcasing their works. Book signing with authors Marissa Stapley and Bianca Marais. Admission is free.

June 23, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit Head Lake Park in Haliburton every Tuesday through summer for the Haliburton County Farmers Market. Find everything from locally-grown fruits and vegetables, soaps, health and wellness products, smoked meats, imported cheese, dog treats, maple syrup and more. Runs every Tuesday in Haliburton until Oct. 6 and Saturday in Minden until Oct. 10.

June 27, all day. Truck pull and show and shine at the Minden Fairgrounds, hosted by the Kinsmen Club. Registration runs 8-11 a.m with the truck pull starting at noon. There's corn hole at 10 a.m., food, refreshments and a beer tent. Adults are $15, children 12-16 are $5 and kids under 12 free.

June 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The 'sustainable shores and garden' event returns to Abbey Gardens, with native plants, workshops, environmental exhibits and family-friendly activities throughout the day. Learn more at www.ecoenvirolearn.org.

June 27, 8 a.m. Community yard sale at the Burnt River Community Centre (16 Somerville Centre Rd.) For more information, contact Cheryl at 905-505-1773.

June 27, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dorset Heritage Day at the Dorset Museum. Lots of fun for the whole family, with both indoor and outdoor activities. All are welcome.

June 28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dorset Arts and Crafts Show at the Dorset Parkette (22602 Hwy. 35). To book your spot, contact Sandra Rogers at 705-766-9969 or recreation@algonquinhighlands.ca.

June 29, 7 p.m. Highlands Summer Festival kicks off its 2026 season with *Anne of Green Gables* – The Musical. There will be nine shows at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion until July 8. Recommended for ages 7 and up. Tickets are $40, available online at tickets.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca/product/anne-of-green-gables.

July 1, all day. Celebrate Canada Day by exploring the communities of Highlands East. Start the day with breakfast at the Cardiff Legion at 9 a.m., there will be a flag raising at the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost at 11:30 a.m., games and music at the curling club from noon to 3 p.m., children's crafts, horseshoes and BBQ in Highland Grove and evening entertainment in Gooderham beginning at 4 p.m.

July 4, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Haliburton and District Lions Club is hosting a walk for dog guides community garage sale in the A.J. LaRue parking lot. Remember to bring your pop tabs for puppies. There will be books, plants and vintage items.

Author Marissa Stapley. *Photo by Dahlin Katz.*

Local literary talent at Bookapalooza

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As Bookapalooza returns for its annual celebration, literary talent is taking over the County, showcasing the local arts scene alongside major international bestsellers.

The festival is hitting its stride with a sold-out exhibit hall on Saturday at the Minden Community Centre and a headlining lineup featuring bestselling authors Bianca Marais and Marissa Stapley.

For Douglas Tindall, a County-based author and arts council member, Bookapalooza is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on the literary community that operates quietly behind the scenes.

"When someone moves to Haliburton, one of the first things you see is the incredible range of musical talent. It's everywhere. Then you see either the visual arts or the performing arts," Tindall told *The Highlander*. "You don't as readily see the literary arts. Bookapalooza is an event that tries to give the literary arts centre stage."

Stapley, one of Bookapalooza's headliners, brings literary starpower to the festival with a personal connection to the County. As the first Canadian author selected for Reese Witherspoon's book club with her novel *Lucky*, Stapley fulfilled a dream of buying a cottage in Haliburton thanks to the success of the book.

"My reaction was just like... it did feel like winning the lottery," Stapley told *The Highlander* in a recent interview. "It's so rare. I'm still the only Canadian who's been a Reese's pick. It's such an honour, honestly."

The success of *Lucky* didn't just stop there. Next month, an adaptation of *Lucky* premieres on Apple TV, starring Anya Taylor-Joy, of *The Queen's Gambit*, as the protagonist. When asked about letting Hollywood take the reins of her creation, Stapley said it was like taking a leap of faith.

"Lauren Neustadter, who's a producer at Hello Sunshine, really describes it well. She calls it a trust fall, and you have to do that," the author explained. "I think a great adaptation uses a piece of book [intellectual property] as a companion. I think it's less interesting to me to watch something come to life on screen that is word-for-word and scene-for-scene exactly the same as the book, because the mediums are so different."

Stapley began her writing career in her mid-teens with her father working at a small-town newspaper as a reporter. At just 16 years old, she began covering assignments and writing columns for him when he took a vacation, .

Stapley said her journalism background saved her "from fear of the blank page.

"That deadline-driven environment... there was so much that I learned about writing and really just actually being a productive writer from journalism," she said.

Joining Stapley on stage is her close friend Marais, who wrote the buzzworthy book *Hum If You Don't Know the Words*, a historical novel set against South Africa's 1976 Soweto riots.

While the afternoon author Q&A and evening dinner are ticketed, admission to the main Bookapalooza exhibit hall is free to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors will have the opportunity to speak with about 40 local writers representing everything from memoirs and young adult fiction to historical drama.

Stapley offered some parting advice for local writers who may be grinding through their first or second manuscripts, and that is it's a marathon, not a race.

"Never give up. My mom always used to say, 'you're the fastest overnight success. It only took a decade,'" Stapley said. "I feel that no writing is ever wasted. It's so important to find the joy in writing, even through the disappointments, and the rejections, and the struggle to find time."

As for Saturday's Bookapalooza, Tindall's message to anyone who might be on the fence about attending is simple.

"It's one day a year. And if you miss it, you've missed it. So you don't want to take that chance, do you?"

Municipality of Dysart et al
In the Heart of the Haliburton Highlands

FORM 6
SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

Municipal Act, 2001

Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on July 22, 2026, at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton.

Description of Lands:

1. Roll No. 46 24 010 000 45100 0000; 1701 - 1741 WIGAMOG RD., HALIBURTON; PIN 39252-0140 (LT); PT LT 2-3 CON 6 DYSART PT 1, 2, 19R8110; T/W H243561 & H127169; T/W H263271; DYSART ET AL; File No. 24-38

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $841,000

Minimum tender amount: $110,337.04

2. Roll No. 46 24 011 000 20200 0000; 1025 MEADOWVIEW RD., HALIBURTON; PIN 39172-0071 (LT); PT LT 14 CON 7 DYSART AS IN H86046; S/T H32659; DYSART ET AL; File No. 25-06

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $293,000

Minimum tender amount: $20,176.08

3. Roll No. 46 24 013 000 13800 0000; 1068 HURRICANE LAKE DR., HALIBURTON; PIN 39185-0031 (LT); PT LT 6 CON 13 DYSART PT 3 19R904 EXCEPT PT 1 19R1162; T/W H113633 EXCEPT THE EASEMENT THEREIN RE PT 2 19R1162; DYSART ET AL; File No. 25-20

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $128,000

Minimum tender amount: $13,907.90

4. Roll No. 46 24 040 000 35300 0000; DYSART ET AL; PIN 39141-0342 (LT); PT LT 8 CON 3 GUILFORD AS IN H127005; UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE; File No. 25-35

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $82,000

Minimum tender amount: $11,854.00

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value, according to the last returned assessment roll, may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c. 10, s. 235 (the "Act"), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act

are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property.

The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/ tenderers comply with the Act, and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale. Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province's Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

TAKE NOTICE: Where a refund is claimed by a qualifying first-time Homebuyer under the Land Transfer Tax Act, the Municipality requires the purchaser to retain legal counsel to complete the transfer.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, contact:

Crystal Bliedung
Tax Collector

The Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart, Dudley, Harcourt, Guilford, Harburn, Bruton, Havelock, Eyre and Clyde

135 Maple Avenue
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YARD SALE – 2228 Trappers Trail, Haliburton. Saturday, June 20th & Sunday, June 21st from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bundle and save! You can also visit the TINY Cabin while you are here

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The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires:

One (1) Patrol Superintendent

This role performs road patrols, provides direction to staff, contractors, obtains locates, provides project layouts, and supports maintenance and repair operations for the County Haliburton. This role provides supervision and there is a regular requirement to be on call as well as work weekends and evenings.

The successful candidate will possess a DZ licence and three (3) years of related experience. The hourly rate is $36.32 - $42.49.

Applications

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **July 1, 2026**.

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Haliburton County Public Library Requires:

One (1) Programming and Outreach Coordinator

This role is responsible for planning, facilitating, and supporting in-person, virtual, and outreach programs and events for all age groups across all library branch locations.

The successful candidate will possess post-secondary education in library studies, education, or a related field with at least three (3) years of related experience, preferably in a public library setting. The hourly rate is $33.42 - $39.10.

Applications

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for detailed postings and job descriptions. Forward your resume to info@haliburtonlibrary.ca no later than **July 1, 2026**.

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.
In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

Highlander classifieds

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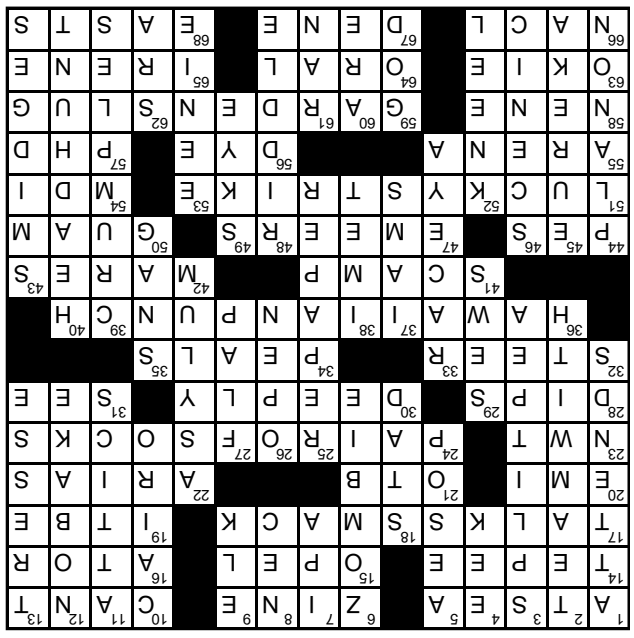

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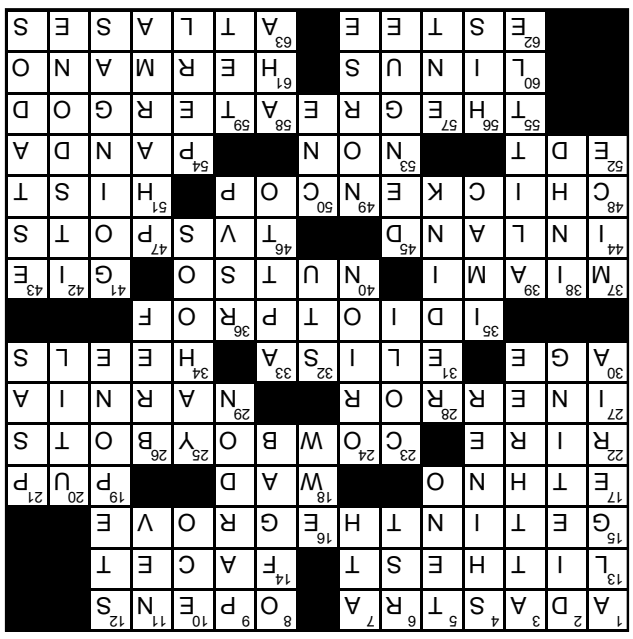

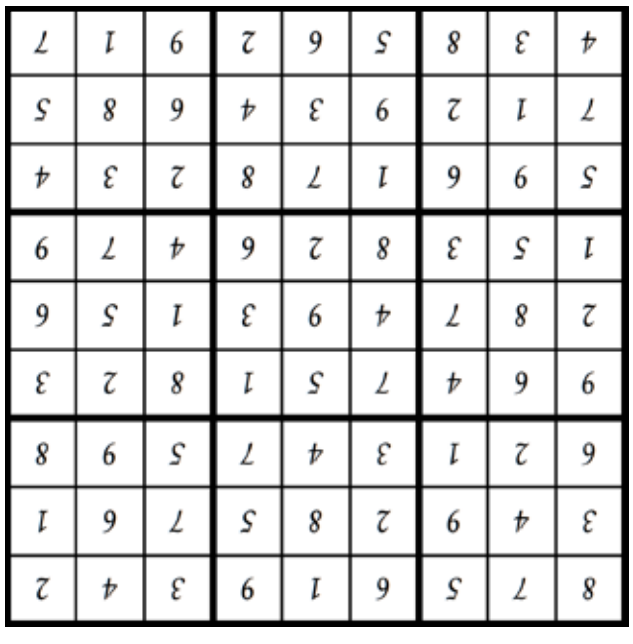

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Wayne Rutter

It is with deep sadness that the family of Wayne Rutter announce his peaceful passing and his entrance into the presence of his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Wayne was born on April 25, 1938, in Coboconk, Ontario, to the late Thomas and Ruth Rutter. Throughout his 88 years, Wayne lived a life marked by faith, devotion to family, service to others, and a strong commitment to hard work.

Wayne was the cherished husband of Beryl Rutter (nee Stamp) for 62 blessed years. They met while they were both employed at the Wilberforce Veneer and Lumber Company. After a brief courtship, they were married on June 6th,1964, and together they created a home filled with warmth, laughter, and Christian values.

He was a loving and devoted father to Melanie Storey (Elwood) and Mike Rutter (Tammy) and a proud grandfather to Lauren Warren (Brennan), Emma, Destiny, and Brayden. He was predeceased by his brothers Arnold, Harold, and Garnet and his three sisters Isobel, Ruth and Ethel who died in infancy. Wayne treasured every moment spent with his family and was a source of wisdom, encouragement, and steadfast support throughout their lives.

Wayne was also a beloved uncle to many nieces and nephews, each of whom held a special place in his heart. Wayne loved spending time with his church family and, in later years, the walking group. His kindness, gentle humour, and genuine interest in others created lasting memories for all who knew him.

A man of deep and abiding faith, Wayne faithfully served as Pastor of Wilberforce Full Gospel Church, where he dedicated many years to preaching the Gospel and sharing the love of Christ. His faith was not only spoken from the pulpit but lived daily through his compassion, humility, and willingness to help those in need.

Wayne's strong work ethic was evident throughout his life. He worked in a variety of occupations, including septic tank pumping, study hall supervisor at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, and a variety of jobs at Wilberforce Veneer.

While his family grieves his loss, they rejoice in the assurance that Wayne is now at peace in the presence of his Saviour.

Celebration Of Life

Friends and family are invited to join the family at the **LLOYD WATSON MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE** 2249 Loop Road, Wilberforce on Saturday June 27th from 1:00 - 3 p.m. to celebrate Wayne's life. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Wayne's memory can be made to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation or Autism Ontario. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.

Community Funeral Home

In Loving Memory of

Linda Dianne Nicks

(nee. Wright)

NICKS – Linda Dianne (nee. Wright) passed away with her husband at her side at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto on Thursday, May 28, 2026 at the age of 74.

Beloved husband and best friend of Raymond Nicks for 38+ years. Dianne is survived by children John Ivey (Claire) and Michael Ivey (Reagan); grandchildren Madelaine, Ben, Brady and Lexy; and many siblings, in-laws, nieces, nephews and friends.

Dianne enjoyed the challenges and satisfaction of hairdressing along with auto sales along her career. Dianne was always thinking of others and assisted when she could. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Cremation has taken place. Arrangements entrusted to the **Thompson Mott Funeral Home**, 62 Main Street N, Box 70, Waterford (519-443-5332). A celebration of life will be held at a later date in Haliburton. Interment of ashes at a later date. Online condolences can be made at www.thompsonmottfuneralhome.com

A special thank you to the Dr's and staff at Huntsville District Memorial Hospital and St. Michael's Hospital for their care and compassion for Dianne.

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Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume by **3:00 p.m. on Friday, July 10, 2026** to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
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Township of Algonquin Highlands
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Highlander puzzles

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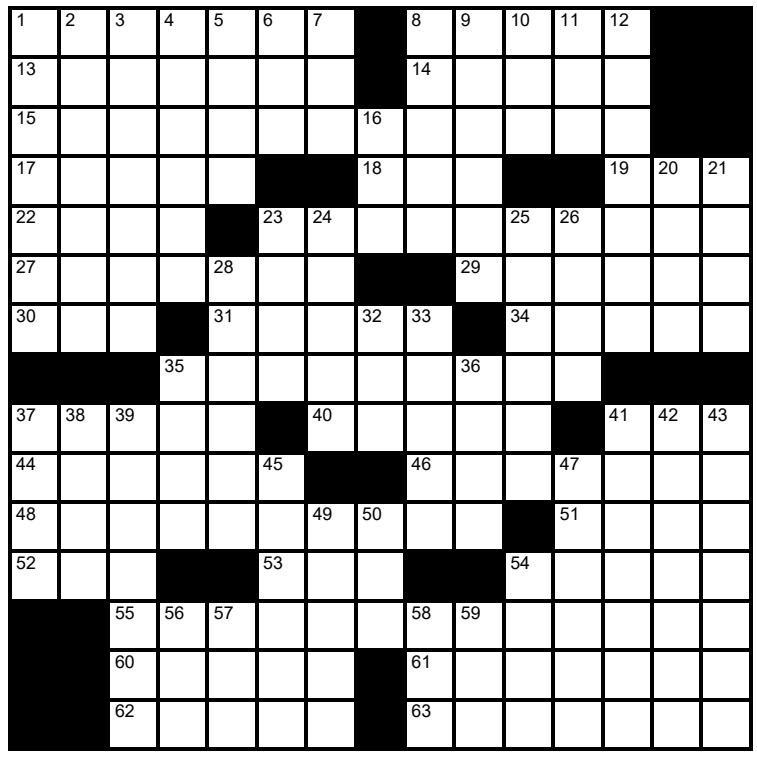

Across

1 "To the stars," in Latin
8 Clicks on, maybe
13 Most limber
14 Cut diamond's feature
15 Command to an AWOL orange picker?
17 Centric lead-in
18 Fat cat's wallet filler
19 Baby bat
22 Juste pour ___ (Montreal comedy festival)
23 Spammers targeting Roy Rogers?
27 By mistake
29 World beyond the wardrobe
30 Tree ring indicator
31 "Paint Your Wagon" song girl
34 Some dress up shoes
35 Uneducated educator?
37 Where Dolphins play
40 Bonkers
41 "... the giftie ___ us": Burns
44 Far from shore
46 Commercials
48 Security officer at a poultry farm?
51 Future archivist's subj.
52 Summer setting in T.O.
53 "Forget it, François"
54 World Wildlife Fund logo
55 Zeus, vis-à-vis Asclepius, in status?
60 Insecure "Peanuts" boy
61 Brother, in Baja
62 "___ Lauder: The Sweet Smell of Success" (documentary)
63 Alternatives to globes

Down

1 Largest nation in Africa
2 Taking fewer courses, maybe
3 When some take a siesta
4 Black eye, informally
5 "A ___ 'clock scholar"
6 18-20, of 26
7 Olympic competitor: Abbr.
8 Gift ___ (chattiness)
9 "Come again?"
10 Enviro kin
11 Carson City's locale: Abbr.
12 First, in a how-to guide
16 "Disgusting!"
20 Renter's extra cost, often: Abbr.
21 MADD ads, e.g.
23 E. ___ (bacteria)
24 Hunter in the sky
25 Boorish hicks
26 En ___ (French "in short")
28 Much is spilled on a flunker's test
32 Disco ___ of "The Simpsons"
33 Is ___ (likely will)
35 Jobs's 1998 release
36 Party planner's request
37 Some click with these
38 Sharp, as a video image
39 Somewhat
41 Dressed like, at a Halloween party
42 "Dinner's ready!"
43 States, in Mexico
45 Mosquito-borne fever
47 "Big" drug industry
49 Like a Valhalla god
50 Ont. summer fair
54 Popular website script
56 That guy's
57 Depressing doc, at times?
58 "Take On Me" band
59 Vietnamese New Year's

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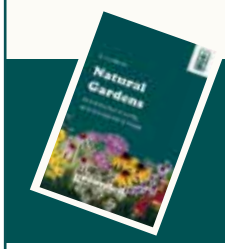

For a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca.

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			1		8			
7		2					8	
		8	5	6				

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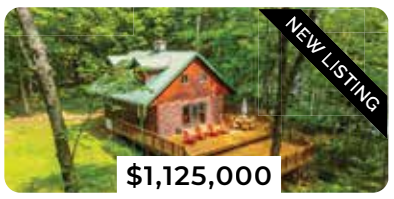
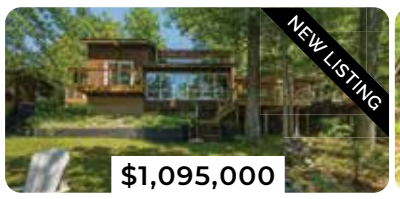
$1,599,000
BED 1+3 | BATH 3 | MLS #X13007692

MINNICOCK LAKE


$1,125,000
BED 3 | BATH 2 | MLS #X13427758

KENNISIS LAKE


$1,095,000
BED 4 | BATH 3 | MLS #X13432064

GOODERHAM LAKE

$925,000
BED 3+2 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12954018

HIGHWAY 35, MINDEN

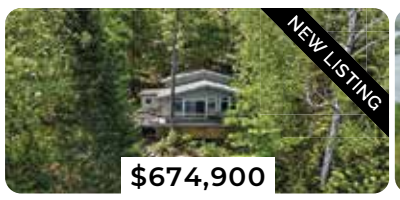
$849,000
BED 3 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12953212

LONG LAKE

$749,900
BED 6 | BATH 1+1 | MLS #X13034386

KENNISIS RIVER

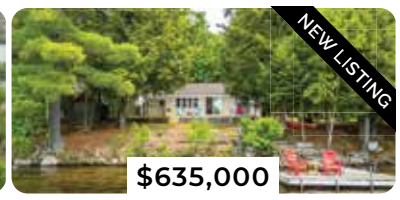
$695,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13135162

DRAG LAKE


$674,900
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS X13421336

REYNOLDS ROAD

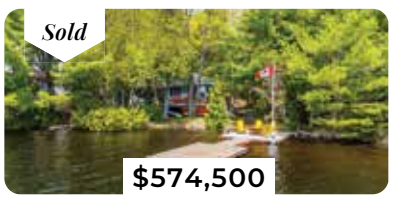
$650,000
BED 3 | BATH 2+1 | MLS #X13185368

SOUTH PORTAGE LAKE


$635,000
BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13420872

IRONDALE RIVER

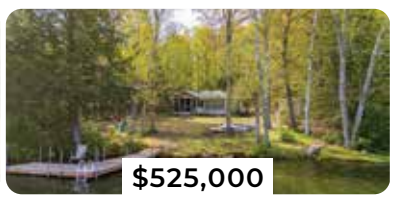
$575,000
BED 2 | BATH 2 | MLS #X13105380

GLAMOR LAKE


$574,500
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13163216

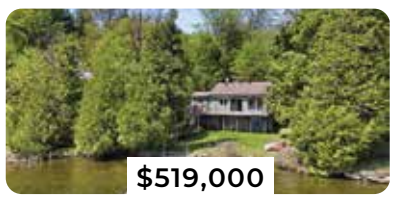
WEST SETTLEMENT RD

$555,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13163216

MONROCK LAKE

$525,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13177210

ALLEN LAKE

$519,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13215436

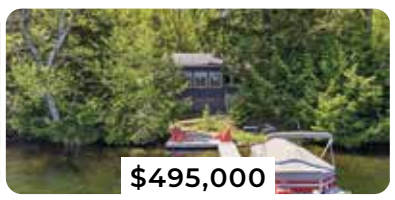
LITTLE STRAGGLE LAKE

$519,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13222622

SILVER BEACH

$499,995
BED 2 | BATH 2 | MLS #X13113762

KUSHOG LAKE, HWY 35

$499,900
BED 3 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12604142

LITTLE STRAGGLE LAKE

$495,000
BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13096532

OUTRAM ROAD

$459,500
BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13096532

GULL RIVER

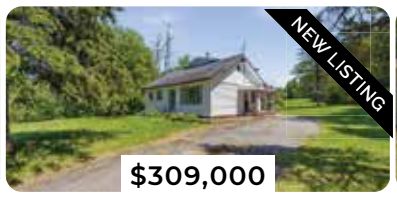
$449,500
BED 2+1 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13147762

COUNTY ROAD 503

$430,000
BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13111224

GLAMOR LAKE ROAD

$398,500
BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13122288

LOOP ROAD


$309,000
BED 4 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13248190

TATTERSAL ROAD

$235,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13247406

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